

STABILITY OF SYMPLECTIC LEAVES

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ABSTRACT. We find computable criteria for stability of symplectic leaves of Poisson manifolds. Using Poisson geometry as an inspiration, we also give a general criterion for stability of leaves of Lie algebroids, including singular ones. This not only extends but also provides a new approach (and proofs) to the classical stability results for foliations and group actions.

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INTRODUCTION

A Poisson structure on a manifold M is a (possibly singular) foliation by symplectic leaves of M . In this paper we address the question of stability of these symplectic leaves. More precisely, given a Poisson structure π on a manifold M , we will say that a symplectic leaf S is *stable* if all nearby Poisson structures have a nearby symplectic leaf which is diffeomorphic to S . In this paper we will give criteria for stability. Our criteria can be viewed as illustrations of the well-known principle

$$\textit{infinitesimal stability} \implies \textit{stability}$$

and are reminiscent of stability criteria in other geometric settings, such as foliation theory, equivariant geometry, etc. Let us recall some of these briefly.

In *foliation theory*, the classical stability results of Reeb [14], Thurston [17], Langevin and Rosenberg [11], can all be reduced to the following criterion for stability: For a fixed manifold M , the set of smooth foliations of M has a natural topology. One calls a leaf L of a foliation \mathcal{F} of M *stable* if every nearby foliation has a nearby leaf diffeomorphic to L . Also, for a base point $x \in L$, let $\rho : \pi_1(L, x) \rightarrow GL(\nu(L)_x)$ be the linear holonomy representation and denote by

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$H^1(\pi_1(L, x), \nu(L)_x)$ the corresponding first group cohomology. Then, for a compact leaf L , the condition $H^1(\pi_1(L, x), \nu(L)_x) = 0$ implies that L is stable.

For *group actions* one finds a similar situation. For a fixed Lie group G and manifold M , the set of smooth actions of G on M has a natural topology. One calls an orbit \mathcal{O} of an action $\alpha : G \times M \rightarrow M$ *stable* if every nearby action has a nearby orbit which is diffeomorphic to \mathcal{O} . Results of Hirsch [10] and Stowe [16] led to the following criterion for stability: Fix $x \in \mathcal{O}$, let $\rho : G_x \rightarrow GL(\nu(\mathcal{O})_x)$ be the linear normal isotropy representation and denote by $H^1(G_x, \nu(\mathcal{O})_x)$ the corresponding first group cohomology. Then, for a compact orbit \mathcal{O} , the condition $H^1(G_x, \nu(\mathcal{O})_x) = 0$ implies that \mathcal{O} is stable.

In *Poisson geometry*, the problem of stability of symplectic leaves is more subtle. One reason is the complicated singular behavior of Poisson structures in a neighborhood of a leaf. Another reason is that there are actually two interesting notions of stability leading to two different questions: when is a symplectic leaf stable as a manifold (**stability**) and when is it stable as a symplectic manifold (**strong stability**)? In this paper we will discuss both notions of stability. Our first result states:

Theorem 1 (Stability). *Let (M, π) be a Poisson manifold and let S be a compact symplectic leaf. If the second relative Poisson cohomology group $H_\pi^2(M, S)$ vanishes, then S is stable.*

Our second result deals with strong stability:

Theorem 2 (Strong stability). *Let (M, π) be a Poisson manifold and let S be a compact symplectic leaf. If the second restricted Poisson cohomology group $H_{\pi, S}^2(M)$ vanishes, then S is strongly stable.*

We emphasize that all the cohomology groups appearing in the statements of our theorems are computable and finite dimensional (the defining complexes are even elliptic).

It is also important to understand the relationship between stability and strong stability. The strong stability result (Theorem 2) makes full use of the Poisson geometry setting and has no immediate consequences involving the other results we have mentioned. This may seem surprising at first sight, because one could expect the strong stability result (Theorem 2) to imply the stability result (Theorem 1). However, the complete statement of these results, which give the size of the space of leaves diffeomorphic to the original one, clarifies the situation: while Theorem 1 implies that nearby Poisson structures have “many” leaves diffeomorphic to the original one, Theorem 2 involves less “many” leaves symplectomorphic to the original one.

Nevertheless, we expect the two theorems to be related. This is due to the existence of a canonical map relating the relevant cohomology groups:

$$\Phi : H_{\pi, S}^2(M) \longrightarrow H_\pi^2(M, S),$$

which led us to the following conjecture:

Conjecture 3. *Let (M, π) be a Poisson manifold and let S be a compact symplectic leaf. If Φ vanishes, then any Poisson structure close enough to π admits at least one nearby symplectic leaf diffeomorphic to S .*

At this point, we are not able to prove or disprove this conjecture. However, Theorem 1.3 below, which gives necessary conditions for stability and strong stability, provides some support for this conjecture. A similar conjecture for group actions, regarding stability of orbits (stability) versus stability of orbit types (strong stability), was made by Stowe [16]. To our knowledge this conjecture is still open.

The other aspect of our work concerns the question of finding some common background to such stability results. We will show that all these results are, in principle, just reflections of a general stability theorem for orbits of *Lie algebroids*, which can be stated as follows:

Theorem 4 (Orbit stability). *Let A be a Lie algebroid and let L be a compact orbit of A with normal bundle denoted $\nu(L)$. If $H^1(A|_L; \nu(L)) = 0$ then L is stable, i.e., every Lie algebroid structure which is close enough to A admits a nearby orbit which is diffeomorphic to L .*

More complete statements of these three theorems, as well as explanations concerning the various cohomology groups appearing in the results, will be given in the body of the paper. In particular, these more complete versions will describe the size of the space of leaves diffeomorphic to the original one.

For each specific class, Theorem 4 immediately gives a computable criterion for stability. However, using our approach and the specifics of the particular class being studied, one may obtain better criteria. In fact, for each of the situations considered above, the precise relationship between the various results we have mentioned, is as follows:

Foliations. In this case, Theorem 4 implies the classical stability theorem for foliations. This requires a passage from algebroid cohomology to group cohomology, that is standard in this case, and which will be explained in full generality in Section 1.3. Since a Lie algebroid which is close enough to (the Lie algebroid of) a foliation must be a foliation itself, the two results coincide.

Group actions. Theorem 4 also implies the stability result for orbits of actions of 1-connected (i.e., connected and simply connected) Lie groups. Without the 1-connectedness assumption Theorem 4 yields a result of slightly more infinitesimal nature, which is more restrictive but also stronger than the result mentioned above: it insures the stability of orbits inside the world of infinitesimal Lie algebra actions on manifolds. One reason for this is that the Lie algebroid associated with an infinitesimal action can have arbitrary close Lie algebroids which are not associated with a Lie algebra action.

Poisson structures. Theorem 4 applied to Poisson geometry implies stability of leaves under the infinitesimal condition that a certain first restricted Poisson cohomology group with coefficients in the normal bundle $H^1_{\pi,S}(M; \nu(S))$ vanishes. Hence, unlike the case of foliations and group actions, our stability theorem in Poisson geometry (Theorem 1) *is not* a direct consequence of the Lie algebroid result. Hence, Poisson geometry provides a first example of a geometric structure where the general stability theorem can be improved. Indeed, we will see that there is a canonical inclusion map:

$$H^2_{\pi,S}(M) \hookrightarrow H^1_{\pi,S}(M; \nu(S)),$$

so Theorem 1 is an improvement over Theorem 4 (see the examples in Section 2).

The proofs of the stability theorems stated above are quite different in nature from the proofs of the classical stability theorems for foliations and group actions. For these, the heart of the proof is an argument, due to Thurston, which uses Ascoli's Theorem to construct a sequence of group 1-cocycles that converge to a cocycle. In our case, the proof consists in constructing a functional, parametrized by the nearby Poisson structures, whose absolute minimums are the nearby leaves diffeomorphic (or symplectomorphic) to the original one. The problem of finding extremes of this functional is solved by a geometric argument, rather than the usual

method that requires constructing some minimizing sequence (that would correspond to Thurston's sequence of group cocycles) and the use of apriori estimates. An outline of our method of proof can be found in Section 3 below.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 1, after introducing the necessary background material, we state the complete statements of our main results. We also show how the classical theorems for foliations and group actions follow from our stability result for Lie algebroids. In Section 2, we illustrate our results with several examples and show that our criteria are computable in many situations. In Section 3, we describe the main steps in our method of proof. The remaining sections of the paper contain the proofs of our results.

In closing this introduction, we remark that the (much easier) case of singular points (i.e., zero dimensional leaves) was treated by us in [4], and then extended to higher order singularities by Dufour and Wade in [7].

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1. MAIN RESULTS

1.1. Poisson structures. Recall (see, e.g., [19]) that a **Poisson structure** on a manifold M can be described either by a Lie bracket $\{\cdot, \cdot\}$ on the space $C^\infty(M)$ satisfying the Leibniz identity:

$$\{f, gh\} = \{f, g\}h + g\{f, h\}, \quad f, g, h \in C^\infty(M),$$

or by a bivector field $\pi \in \mathfrak{X}^2(M)$ with the property that

$$(1) \quad [\pi, \pi] = 0,$$

where $[\cdot, \cdot]$ is the Schouten bracket ⁽¹⁾. These two ways of looking at Poisson structures are related by: $\pi(df, dg) = \{f, g\}$. We will often interpret π as a vector bundle map $\pi^\# : T^*M \rightarrow TM$. Basic examples of Poisson manifolds are symplectic manifolds and duals of Lie algebras (see also below).

The description of Poisson structures in terms of bivectors allows us to talk about Poisson structures which are C^κ -close to a given one: this refers to the **C^κ -topology**, i.e., the topology of uniform convergence over compact subsets of maps and its derivatives up to order p , on the space $\mathfrak{X}^2(M)$ of smooth bivector fields.

In a Poisson manifold (M, π) any function $f \in C^\infty(M)$ induces a vector field

$$X_f := \{f, \cdot\},$$

called the **hamiltonian vector field** induced by f . Moving along hamiltonian flows gives a partition of M into the so called **symplectic leaves**: two points of M are in the same leaf if and only if they can be reached by following the flow of (one or more) hamiltonian vector fields. The leaves carry a canonical smooth structure which make them into regular immersed submanifolds of M . Alternatively, the

¹Recall that $\mathfrak{X}^\bullet(M) = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet TM)$ is endowed the **Schouten bracket** which is uniquely determined by the condition that, when applied to vector fields it is the usual Lie bracket, when applied to a vector field and a function it is the Lie derivative along the vector field and has the following formal properties

$$[X, Y] = -(-1)^{(p-1)(q-1)}[Y, X],$$

$$[X, Y \wedge Z] = [X, Y] \wedge Z + (-1)^{(p-1)q}Y \wedge [X, Z],$$

for all $X \in \mathfrak{X}^p(M)$, $Y \in \mathfrak{X}^q(M)$, $Z \in \mathfrak{X}^r(M)$.

hamiltonian vector fields span a singular distribution on M (which coincides with the image of π^\sharp) and the leaves arise as the maximal connected integrals. This point of view determines the smooth structure of the leaves and also shows that each such leaf S has a canonical symplectic form

$$\omega_S(X_f, X_g) = \{f, g\} \quad (\text{on } S).$$

Hence, roughly speaking, a Poisson structure is a “singular symplectic foliation”. However, there is interesting geometry also in the transverse direction. For any symplectic leaf S , each fiber of the normal bundle

$$\nu_S := TS^\perp M / TS$$

carries a canonical linear Poisson structure (the linearization of π in the transverse direction). Equivalently, the conormal bundle ν_S^* is a Lie algebra bundle: at each $x \in M$, the bracket can be described by

$$[d_x f, d_x g] = d_x \{f, g\},$$

for f, g locally defined functions around x and constant on S .

The symplectic form on the leaf S and the transverse linear Poisson structures on $\nu(S)$ can be assembled together into a single Poisson structure $j_S^1 \pi$, which we will call the **first jet approximation** to π along S . We will describe later how $j_S^1 \pi$ is constructed.

For a Poisson manifold (M, π) , one defines the **Poisson cohomology** $H_\pi^\bullet(M)$ as the cohomology of the complex of multivector fields $(\mathfrak{X}^\bullet(M), d_\pi)$, where:

$$d_\pi := [\pi, \cdot].$$

Fixing a symplectic leaf S , one obtains a complex $(\mathfrak{X}_S^\bullet(M), d_\pi|_S)$ where $\mathfrak{X}_S^\bullet(M) = \Gamma(\Lambda^\bullet TM|_S)$, $d_\pi|_S$ is the space of multivector fields along S (it is not difficult to see that d_π does restrict to S). The corresponding cohomology is called the **Poisson cohomology restricted to $S^{(2)}$** and will be denoted by $H_{\pi, S}^\bullet(M)$. There is an obvious restriction map:

$$H_\pi^\bullet(M) \longrightarrow H_{\pi, S}^\bullet(M).$$

Note that $\mathfrak{X}_S^\bullet(M)$ contains the de Rham complex of S as a subcomplex, with the inclusion induced by dualizing the anchor map $\pi^\sharp : T_S^* M \longrightarrow TS$. We set:

$$\mathfrak{X}^\bullet(M, S) := \mathfrak{X}_S^\bullet(M) / \Omega^\bullet(S),$$

and the resulting cohomology is called the **Poisson cohomology relative to S** , denoted $H_\pi^\bullet(M, S)$. The map induced by the projection will be denoted

$$\Phi : H_{\pi, S}^\bullet(M) \longrightarrow H_\pi^\bullet(M, S).$$

These are the cohomologies appearing in the first two theorems in the introduction, for which we can now state the complete versions:

Theorem 1.1. *Let S be a n -dimensional compact symplectic leaf of a Poisson manifold (M, π) which satisfies $H_\pi^2(M, S) = 0$, and let $\kappa > \frac{n}{2} + 1$ be an integer. For any neighborhood V of S there exists a neighborhood \mathcal{V} of π in the C^κ -topology such that: any Poisson structure in \mathcal{V} has a family of symplectic leaves in V , diffeomorphic to S , smoothly parametrized by $H_\pi^1(M, S)$.*

The parameter space as a nice geometric interpretation: $H_\pi^1(M, S)$ coincides with the space of leaves of the first jet approximation $j_S^1 \pi$ which project diffeomorphically to S . Moreover, we have $H_\pi^1(M, S) = \Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu^0(S))$, the space of flat sections of the subbundle of $\nu(S)$ where the linear transverse Poisson structure vanishes (see Corollary 6.6 (i)).

²This cohomology was introduced in [9], where it was called the *relative Poisson cohomology*. We reserve this name for yet another cohomology we will be using.

Theorem 1.2. *Let S be a n -dimensional compact symplectic leaf of a Poisson manifold (M, π) which satisfies $H_{\pi, S}^2(M) = 0$, and let $\kappa > \frac{n}{2} + 1$ be an integer. For any neighborhood V of S there exists a neighborhood \mathcal{V} of π in the C^κ -topology such that: any Poisson structure in \mathcal{V} has a family of symplectic leaves in V , symplectomorphic to S , smoothly parametrized by the image of $\Phi : H_{\pi, S}^1(M) \rightarrow H_\pi^1(M, S)$.*

The parameter space of strongly stable leaves is a subspace of the parameter space for stable leaves, as it should be. It also has a nice geometric interpretation: it coincides with the space of leaves of the first jet approximation $j_S^1 \pi$ which project diffeomorphically to S and which have symplectic form isotopic to ω_S (see Corollary 6.6 (ii))

One obvious question that one could ask in the Poisson setting is whether the conditions in Theorems 1.1 and 1.2 are in any sense necessary for stability to hold. It turns out that there is a natural class of Poisson structures, namely those behaving linearly in a neighborhood of the leaf S , where these conditions appear naturally. More precisely, let π be a Poisson structure on a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$, such that the zero section is a leaf of π . Will say that π is of **first order around S** if $\pi = j_S^1 \pi$ in some neighborhood of S . Then we have:

Theorem 1.3. *Let π be a Poisson structure which is of first order around a compact symplectic leaf S . Then:*

- (i) *If S is stable, then the map $\Phi : H_{\pi, S}^2(M) \rightarrow H_\pi^2(M, S)$ vanishes.*
- (ii) *If S is strongly stable, then $H_{\pi, S}^2(M) = 0$.*

Notice that this result provides some evidence to the conjecture stated in the Introduction.

1.2. Lie algebroids. We now turn to the discussion of the complete version of Theorem 4.

Recall first a **Lie algebroid** over a manifold M consists of a vector bundle A over M together with a Lie algebra bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$ on the space $\Gamma(A)$ of sections of A and a bundle map $\rho : A \rightarrow TM$ (called the **anchor**) satisfying the Leibniz identity

$$[\alpha, f\beta] = f[\alpha, \beta] + \mathcal{L}_{\rho(\alpha)}(f)\beta, \quad (\alpha, \beta \in \Gamma(A), f \in C^\infty(M)).$$

Here, we denote by \mathcal{L}_X the Lie derivative along the vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}(M)$.

Example 1.4. The main examples for this paper are:

Foliations: Any foliation on M can be viewed as a Lie algebroid with injective anchor map: A is the bundle of vectors tangent to the leaves and the anchor is the inclusion.

Infinitesimal actions: To any infinitesimal action $\rho : \mathfrak{g} \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}(M)$ of a finite dimensional Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} on a manifold M one associates a Lie algebroid: A is the trivial bundle over M with fiber \mathfrak{g} , the anchor is ρ and the bracket is uniquely determined by the condition that it restricts on constant sections to the Lie bracket of \mathfrak{g} .

Poisson manifolds: Associated to any Poisson structure π on M , there is a Lie algebroid structure on the cotangent bundle T^*M : the anchor is just $\pi^\sharp : T^*M \rightarrow TM$, while the bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]_\pi$ on $\Gamma(T^*M) = \Omega^1(M)$ is uniquely determined by

$$[df, dg]_\pi = d\{f, g\}.$$

Generalizing the leaves of foliated manifolds, orbits of actions and the symplectic leaves of Poisson manifolds, one can talk about the **leaves of a Lie algebroid A**

over M : they are regular immersed submanifolds L of M which are the maximal integrals of the singular distribution $\rho(A) \subset TM$:

$$T_x L = \rho(A_x) \quad \forall x \in L.$$

Given a leaf $L \subset M$ of A , one can restrict A to L to obtain a new algebroid $A|_L$ over L , with the bracket uniquely determined by:

$$[\alpha|_L, \beta|_L] = [\alpha, \beta]|_L.$$

This restricted algebroid $A|_L$ has the important property that it is transitive (i.e., its anchor is surjective). Also, the bracket on $\Gamma(A)$ restricts to a pointwise bracket on the kernel of the anchor map at each point $x \in M$, to induce a Lie algebra

$$\mathfrak{g}_x(A) := \text{Ker}(\rho_x) \subset A_x,$$

called the isotropy Lie algebra at x . When x runs inside a leaf L , they fit together into a smooth Lie algebra bundle $\mathfrak{g}_L(A)$ over L , which can be viewed as a Lie algebroid with zero anchor. One obtains a short exact sequence of Lie algebroids:

$$0 \longrightarrow \mathfrak{g}_L(A) \longrightarrow A|_L \longrightarrow TL \longrightarrow 0.$$

If we fix a (vector bundle) splitting of the sequence, $\sigma : TL \rightarrow A|_L$, we can define a connection ∇^σ on $\mathfrak{g}_L(A)$ by:

$$\nabla_X^\sigma \xi = [\sigma(X), \xi], \quad (X \in \mathfrak{X}(S), \xi \in \Gamma(\mathfrak{g}_L(A))).$$

The connections induced on the center $Z(\mathfrak{g}_L(A))$ and also on the abelianization $\mathfrak{g}_L(A)/[\mathfrak{g}_L(A), \mathfrak{g}_L(A)]$ are flat and do not depend on the choice of splitting. Hence, these two bundles are canonically flat bundles over L .

Example 1.5. When $A = T^*M$ is the Lie algebroid associated to a Poisson manifold (M, π) and we fix a symplectic leaf S , the sequence above amounts to:

$$0 \longrightarrow \nu^*(S) \longrightarrow T_S^*M \longrightarrow TS \longrightarrow 0$$

We conclude that the bundle ν_S^0 consisting of zeros of the transverse linear Poisson structure is canonically a flat vector bundle over S . The sections of this bundle form the parameter space in Theorem 1.1.

For any Lie algebroid A one has an associated de Rham complex: $\Omega^\bullet(A) = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A)$ with the differential d_A given by the classical Koszul formula

$$\begin{aligned} d_A \omega(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{q+1}) &= \sum_i (-1)^{i+1} \mathcal{L}_{\rho(\alpha_i)}(\omega(\alpha_1, \dots, \widehat{\alpha}_i, \dots, \alpha_{q+1})) + \\ &\quad + \sum_{i < j} (-1)^{i+j} \omega([\alpha_i, \alpha_j], \dots, \widehat{\alpha}_i, \dots, \widehat{\alpha}_j, \dots, \alpha_{q+1}). \end{aligned}$$

The resulting cohomology $H^\bullet(A)$ is called the **A -de Rham cohomology**.

Example 1.6. A -de Rham cohomology generalizes the usual de Rham cohomology (when $A = TM$), foliated cohomology (when A comes from a foliation), Lie algebra cohomology (when M is a point and A is a Lie algebra). When (M, π) is a Poisson manifold and $A = T^*M$ is the associated Lie algebroid, then $H^\bullet(A)$ coincides with the Poisson cohomology $H_\pi^\bullet(M)$. For any symplectic leaf S , the A -de Rham cohomology $H^\bullet(A|_S)$ of the restricted Lie algebroid $A|_S = T_S^*M$ coincides with $H_{\pi,S}^\bullet(M)$, the Poisson cohomology restricted to S .

There is a simple variation of A -de Rham cohomology obtained by allowing coefficients. Here by coefficients we mean representations of A , i.e., vector bundles E over M endowed with A -derivatives operators:

$$\Gamma(A) \otimes \Gamma(E) \longrightarrow \Gamma(E), \quad (\alpha, e) \mapsto \nabla_\alpha(e),$$

which satisfy the connection-like identities

$$\nabla_{f\alpha}(e) = f\nabla_\alpha(e), \quad \nabla_\alpha(fe) = f\nabla_\alpha(e) + \mathcal{L}_{\rho(\alpha)}(f)e, \quad (f \in C^\infty(M))$$

as well as the flatness condition

$$\nabla_{[\alpha, \beta]} = \nabla_\alpha \nabla_\beta - \nabla_\beta \nabla_\alpha.$$

One defines the complex $\Omega^\bullet(A; E) = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet A^* \otimes E)$, with the differential d_A given by a formula similar to the one above, but where we replace $\mathcal{L}_{\rho(\alpha_i)}$ (which does not longer make sense) by ∇_{α_i} .

Example 1.7. If we fix a leaf $L \subset M$ of A , the restricted algebroid $A|_L$ has a canonical representation on the normal bundle $\nu_L = TM/TL$:

$$\nabla_\alpha(X|_{\text{mod } TL}) = [\rho(\alpha), X]|_{\text{mod } TL}.$$

This representation is known as the **Bott representation** of $A|_L$ and the resulting cohomology $H^*(A|_L; \nu_L)$ is the one relevant to the stability of leaves of Lie algebroids. Note that in degree zero one has

$$H^0(A|_L; \nu_L) = \Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_L),$$

the space of flat sections (with respect to the Bott connection).

There is one final ingredient in the statement of our stability theorem for Lie algebroids that we need to introduce, namely the topology on the set of Lie algebroid structures on a fixed vector bundle. First, note that locally (over M) we can describe a Lie algebroid $A \rightarrow M$ by certain **structure functions** as follows: fix local coordinates (U, x^1, \dots, x^n) on M and a basis of sections $\{e_1, \dots, e_r\}$ of $A|_U$. Then, there are functions $a_i^\alpha, c_{ij}^k \in C^\infty(U)$ such that:

$$\rho(e_i) = a_i^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha}, \quad [e_i, e_j] = c_{ij}^k e_k.$$

This makes it possible to compare any two Lie algebroid structures over U by comparing the corresponding structure functions (in whatever C^κ -topology one may wish). Now, if one wants to do this globally over M , one can choose a connection ∇ on the vector bundle and proceed as follows: to each Lie algebroid structure, with anchor ρ and Lie bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$, we associate sections $a \in \Gamma(A^* \otimes TM)$ and $c \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 A^* \otimes A)$, by setting:

$$\langle a, (\alpha, \omega) \rangle = \langle \rho(\alpha), \omega \rangle, \quad \langle c, (\alpha, \beta, \xi) \rangle = \langle [\alpha, \beta] - \nabla_{\rho(\alpha)}\beta, \xi \rangle.$$

The C^κ -topology on sections of a vector bundle now induce a **C^κ -topology on the space of Lie algebroid structures** on A .

Theorem 1.8. *Let L be a n -dimensional compact leaf of a Lie algebroid A which satisfies $H^1(A|_L; \nu_L) = 0$, and let $\kappa > \frac{n}{2}$ be an integer. For any neighborhood V of L there exists a neighborhood \mathcal{V} of the Lie algebroid A in the C^κ -topology such that: any Lie algebroid structure in \mathcal{V} has a family of leaves in V , diffeomorphic to L , smoothly parametrized by $H^0(A|_L; \nu_L)$.*

Similar to the Poisson case, the parameter space can also be characterized as the space of leaves of the *first jet approximation* to the Lie algebroid A along L . Moreover, for Lie algebroid structures of *first order type* around L the condition in the theorem is also a necessary condition for stability.

1.3. From Lie algebr(oids) to Lie group(oids). Lets us explain how the Lie algebroid cohomology group appearing in the theorem can be re-interpreted as differentiable cohomology of a certain Lie group. This will show, for example, that the classical stability theorem for foliations follows from our general theorem for Lie algebroids.

The relevant group is the **first homotopy group of A** based at x (or the **fundamental group of A** based at x) which will be denoted $G_x(A)$. The elements of $G_x(A)$ are the equivalence classes of A -paths which start and end at x , i.e., A -loops based x , modulo the equivalence relation of A -homotopy (see Sections 1.1 and 1.3 in [5]). The space $P(A, x)$ formed by C^1 -loops based at x is an infinite dimensional Banach manifold and $G_x(A)$, endowed with the quotient topology, becomes a topological group. By the smooth structure on $G_x(A)$ we will allways mean a smooth structure which makes the quotient map $P(A, x) \longrightarrow G_x(A)$ into a submersion. Such a smooth structure, if it exists, is unique and makes $G_x(A)$ into a Lie group integrating $\mathfrak{g}_x(A)$. In general, $G_x(A)$ is neither connected nor simply-connected.

Geometrically, A -paths can be used to perform parallel transport with respect to A -connections. The resulting maps are invariant under A -homotopy provided the A -connection is flat (i.e., if it defines a representation of A) [5, Proposition 1.6]. This applied to the Bott representation of $A|_L$ gives a representation of the fundamental group of A :

$$\text{hol} : G_x(A) \longrightarrow GL(\nu_x),$$

called the **linear holonomy representation** based at x .

Proposition 1.9. *Let A be a Lie algebroid, L a leaf of A and $x \in L$. If $G_x(A)$ is smooth then*

$$H^1(A; \nu_L) \cong H^1(G_x(A); \nu_x)$$

where the right hand side is the differentiable cohomology of the Lie group $G_x(A)$ with coefficients in the linear holonomy representation.

Proof. First of all, the condition that $G_x(A)$ is smooth is equivalent to the integrability of the Lie algebroid A_L ([5]). Let $\mathcal{G}_L = \mathcal{G}(A_L)$ be the fundamental groupoid of A_L , formed by A -homotopy classes of arbitrary A -paths (also known as the Weinstein groupoid of A). It is the unique (up to isomorphism) s -simply connected Lie groupoid integrating A_L .

Similarly to the discussion above, parallel transport with respect to the Bott connection makes ν_L into a representation of the groupoid \mathcal{G}_L . Since the s -fibers of \mathcal{G}_L are 1-connected, a theorem of [2] states that the Van Est map

$$\text{VE} : H^1(\mathcal{G}_L; \nu_L) \longrightarrow H^1(A_L; \nu_L),$$

is an isomorphism.

Next, by its very construction, $G_x(A)$ coincides with the isotropy group of \mathcal{G}_L (i.e., the Lie group of arrows of \mathcal{G}_L starting and ending at x). Hence \mathcal{G}_L , being a transitive Lie groupoid, is Morita equivalent to $G_x(A)$. Under this equivalence, the representation of \mathcal{G}_L on ν_L corresponds to the linear holonomy representation of $G_x(A)$ on ν_x .

Finally, since the first differentiable groupoid cohomology is a Morita invariant (see, e.g., [2]), we conclude that $H^1(\mathcal{G}_L; \nu_L)$ and $H^1(G_x(A); \nu_x)$ are isomorphic and the result follows. \square

We can now look back at foliations, groups actions and Poisson manifolds to see what we can conclude from Theorem 1.8.

1.3.1. *Foliations.* Combining Proposition 1.9 with Theorem 1.8 we recover the classical stability theorem for foliations, as we now describe.

Let $A = T\mathcal{F}$ be a foliation, viewed as an involutive subbundle of TM and as an algebroid with the inclusion as anchor map. Then the Bott representation becomes the usual flat connection on ν_L , and we have

$$H^1(A; \nu_L) = H^1(L; \nu_L) \text{ and } G_x(A) = \pi_1(L, x).$$

Also, the topology on the space of Lie algebroid structures introduced above, induces the usual C^κ -topology on the space of foliations. Hence:

Corollary 1.10. *Let L be a compact leaf of a foliation \mathcal{F} , let $\kappa > \frac{n}{2} + 1$ be an integer, and assume that*

$$H^1(\pi_1(L, x); \nu_x) = 0.$$

Then for any neighborhood V of L there exists a neighborhood \mathcal{V} of the foliation \mathcal{F} in the C^κ -topology such that: any foliation in \mathcal{V} has a family of leaves in V , diffeomorphic to L , smoothly parametrized by $\Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_L)$.

1.3.2. *Group actions.* We also obtain a stability result for actions of 1-connected Lie groups. In fact, when $A = \mathfrak{g} \ltimes M$ is the Lie algebroid associated to a 1-connected Lie group G acting on M then $G_x(A) \cong G_x$, so that for any orbit \mathcal{O} of G , we have $H^1(A; \nu_{\mathcal{O}})$ and $H^1(G_x; \nu_x)$ are isomorphic (here ν_x is the normal space to the orbit \mathcal{O} through x). The set of smooth actions of G also carries a natural C^κ -topology, and we conclude:

Corollary 1.11. *Let \mathcal{O} be a compact orbit of an action of a 1-connected Lie group G on M , let $\kappa > \frac{n}{2} + 1$ be an integer, and assume that*

$$H^1(G_x; \nu_x) = 0.$$

Then for any neighborhood V of \mathcal{O} there exists a neighborhood \mathcal{V} of the action in the C^κ -topology such that: any action in \mathcal{V} has a family of leaves in V , diffeomorphic to \mathcal{O} , smoothly parametrized by $\Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_{\mathcal{O}})$.

Notice that a Lie algebroid structure which is close to a Lie algebroid $T\mathcal{F}$ of a foliation must have injective anchor, and hence it is the Lie algebroid of a foliation. So the notions of stability for a foliation \mathcal{F} in the sense of foliations and in the sense of Lie algebroids coincide.

This is not anymore the case for Lie algebra actions: a Lie algebroid which is close to an action Lie algebroid $\mathfrak{g} \ltimes M$ need not be an action Lie algebroid. However, the first order approximation to a Lie algebroid along an orbit is an action algebroid. This explains why we still recover (infinitesimally) the classical stability result for actions.

1.3.3. *Poisson structures.* Finally, in the case of Poisson structures the two stability results do differ. There is a precise relationship between Theorem 1.1 and Theorem 1.8, which we now explain. Recall that $H_{\pi, S}^\bullet(M; \nu_S)$ denotes the cohomology $H^*(T_S^*M; \nu_S)$, and it is computed by the complex

$$\mathfrak{X}_S^\bullet(M; \nu_S) = \Gamma(\wedge^\bullet T_S M \otimes \nu_S),$$

where the differential is induced by the operation of bracketing with π . There is a canonical inclusion

$$\begin{aligned} i : \mathfrak{X}^\bullet(M, S) &\longrightarrow \mathfrak{X}_S^{\bullet-1}(M; \nu_S) \\ X_1 \wedge \dots \wedge X_k &\mapsto \sum_i (-1)^{i+1} X_1 \wedge \dots \widehat{X_i} \dots \wedge X_k \otimes (X_i \bmod T_S) \end{aligned}$$

and this map is compatible with the differentials. This leads to:

Lemma 1.12. *The inclusion i induces an injection $H_\pi^2(M, S) \hookrightarrow H_{\pi, S}^1(M; \nu_S)$.*

This inclusion can be seen as a reflection of the fact that a Lie algebroid structure on the cotangent bundle T^*M is associated with a Poisson structure iff the anchor is skew-symmetric and the bracket of closed 1-forms is also a closed 1-form. There are Poisson structures π with a symplectic leaf S for which every nearby Poisson structure has nearby symplectic leaves diffeomorphic to S , while there exist some nearby Lie algebroids with no leaves diffeomorphic to S (see Example 2.2 below).

The conclusion is that the criteria for stability of symplectic leaves in Theorem 1.1 is stronger than the criteria arising from the general algebroid setting given by Theorem 1.8.

2. EXAMPLES

We will now illustrate our main theorems with a few examples. Concerning terminology, we will say that a symplectic leaf S of a Poisson manifold (M, π) is:

- **C^κ -stable** if for any neighborhood V of S , there exists a neighborhood \mathcal{V} of π in the C^κ -topology such that any $\theta \in \mathcal{V}$ has a leaf *diffeomorphic* to S and contained in V .
- **strongly C^κ -stable** if the same condition holds but with “*diffeomorphic*” replaced by “*symplectomorphic*”.
- **algebroid C^κ -stable** if for any neighborhood V of S , there exists a neighborhood \mathcal{V} of $(T^*M, [\cdot, \cdot]_\pi, \pi^\sharp)$ in the C^κ -topology such that any Lie algebroid structure in \mathcal{V} has a leaf *diffeomorphic* to S and contained in V .

When $\kappa = \infty$, we drop κ from the notation. Our theorems imply the following criteria for stability: for a compact symplectic leaf S and $\kappa > \frac{n}{2} + 1$, one has:

Criterion 1: If $H_\pi^2(M, S) = 0$ then S is C^κ -stable.

Criterion 2: If $H_{\pi, S}^2(M) = 0$ then S is strongly C^κ -stable.

Criterion 3: If $H_{\pi, S}^1(M, \nu_S) = 0$ then S is algebroid $C^{\kappa-1}$ -stable.

Before we turn to the examples, let us also point out that for a Poisson manifold (M, π) with $x \in M$ a singular point of π (i.e., a 0-dimensional leaf $S = \{x\}$), the relevant cohomologies are related to the isotropy Lie algebra \mathfrak{g}_x of π at x as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} H_\pi^2(M, x) &= H_{\pi, x}^2(M) \cong H^2(\mathfrak{g}_x), \\ H_{\pi, x}^1(M, \nu_x) &= H^1(\mathfrak{g}_x; \mathfrak{g}_x). \end{aligned}$$

In particular, let $M = \mathfrak{g}^*$ be the dual of a Lie algebra endowed with its linear Poisson structure. The origin $x = 0$ is a singular point and we have that $\mathfrak{g}_x = \mathfrak{g}$, so:

$$H_{\pi, x}^2(M) = H^2(\mathfrak{g}), \quad H_{\pi, x}^1(M, \nu_x) = H^1(\mathfrak{g}; \mathfrak{g}).$$

This will be used in the examples to follow.

Example 2.1. On \mathbb{R}^2 , the Poisson structures

$$\pi_\epsilon = (x^2 + y^2 + \epsilon) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$$

are symplectic when $\epsilon > 0$, while π_0 has $S = \{0\}$ as a singular point. Hence the origin is unstable for π_0 . Note that in this example, the Poisson structure π_0 is just the linear Poisson structure on $M = \mathfrak{g}^*$, where \mathfrak{g} is the abelian Lie algebra. The cohomologies $H_{\pi_0}^2(M, S)$, $H_{\pi_0, S}^2(M)$ and $H_{\pi_0, S}^1(M, \nu_S)$ are all non-zero.

Example 2.2. On \mathbb{R}^2 , the linear Poisson structure

$$\pi = x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$$

has the origin stable, but not algebroid stable.

The stability follows by a direct argument (or by applying Criterion 1). To show algebroid unstability, note that the Lie algebroid associated to π can be described in terms of the coframe $e_1 = dx$, $e_2 = dy$, by:

$$[e_1, e_2] = e_1, \\ \rho(e_1) = x \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \quad \rho(e_2) = -x \frac{\partial}{\partial x}.$$

One can find a Lie algebroid $(T^*\mathbb{R}^2, [\cdot, \cdot]_\epsilon, \rho_\epsilon)$ arbitrary close to this one which has the same Lie bracket and a nonvanishing anchor, given by:

$$\rho_\epsilon(e_1) = x \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \quad \rho_\epsilon(e_2) = -x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \epsilon \frac{\partial}{\partial y}.$$

Since $M = \mathfrak{g}^*$, where \mathfrak{g} is the non-abelian 2-dimensional Lie algebra, in this example:

$$H_{\pi, x}^2(M) = 0, \quad H_{\pi, x}^1(M, \nu_x) \neq 0.$$

Example 2.3. Let $M = \mathfrak{su}(2)^* = \mathbb{R}^3$ with its linear Poisson structure

$$\pi = x \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial z} + y \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + z \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y}.$$

Its symplectic leaves are the origin and the spheres centered at the origin. All the leaves are both strongly stable and algebroid stable. The same happens with the linear Poisson structure on \mathfrak{g}^* , for any Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} which is compact and semi-simple. This should be compared with Conn's linearization theorem [1].

In fact, let $M = \mathfrak{g}^*$ be the dual of a Lie algebra \mathfrak{g} and let G be the 1-connected Lie group integrating \mathfrak{g} . The symplectic leaf through a point $\xi \in \mathfrak{g}$ is precisely the coadjoint orbit \mathcal{O}_ξ containing ξ . Also, the cotangent Lie algebroid T^*M coincides with the action Lie algebroid associated to the coadjoint action. Hence, T^*M integrates to the action Lie groupoid $\mathcal{G} = G \ltimes \mathfrak{g}^* \rightrightarrows \mathfrak{g}^*$, so that the Van Est map gives an isomorphism (see the proof of Proposition 1.9):

$$H_{\pi, \mathcal{O}_\xi}^2(M) \cong H^2(\mathcal{G}|_{\mathcal{O}_\xi}) \cong H^2(G_\xi; \mathfrak{g}_\xi^*), \\ H_{\pi, \mathcal{O}_\xi}^1(M; \nu(\mathcal{O}_\xi)) \cong H^1(\mathcal{G}|_{\mathcal{O}_\xi}; \nu(\mathcal{O}_\xi)) \cong H^1(G_\xi; \mathfrak{g}_\xi^*)$$

and both groups vanish since G_ξ is compact.

Example 2.4. Let (S, ω) be a compact symplectic manifold and let $M = S \times \mathbb{R}$, with the Poisson structure π whose symplectic leaves are $(S \times \{t\}, \omega)$. Let us fix the leaf $S = S \times \{0\}$. One can check directly (or by Example 2.6 below) that

$$H_{\pi, S}^2(M) \cong H^1(S) \oplus H^2(S), \quad H_{\pi, S}^1(M, \nu_S) = H^0(S) \oplus H^1(S),$$

hence these two groups can never be zero. One can also see directly that S is neither strongly stable nor algebroid stable.

On the other hand, it is easy to see that the relative Poisson cohomology is

$$H_\pi^2(M, S) \cong H^1(S).$$

In fact, both cases (S stable or unstable) may arise.

To produce an unstable example one should, of course, choose S so that $H^1(S) \neq 0$. A natural choice to make is $S = \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1$ with the usual area form:

$$\omega = d\theta_1 \wedge d\theta_2.$$

Indeed, one can find on $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{R}$ the Poisson structure:

$$\pi_\epsilon = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_1} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_1} + \epsilon \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_2} \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial t}$$

whose leaves for $\epsilon \neq 0$ are never compact (draw a picture!).

Example 2.5. Consider $M = \mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2 \times (-1, 1)$, with the Poisson structure π whose symplectic leaves are $\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2 \times \{t\}$ endowed with the symplectic form

$$\omega_t = (1 - t)\omega_1 + (1 + t)\omega_2,$$

where $\omega_i = \text{pr}_i^* \omega$ are the pull-backs by the projections $\text{pr}_i : \mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^2$ of the area form on \mathbb{S}^2 . For the leaf $S = \mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2 \times \{0\}$ we find (see Example 2.6 below):

$$H_\pi^2(M, S) = 0, \quad H_{\pi, S}^2(M) \cong \mathbb{R}, \quad H_{\pi, S}^1(M; \nu_S) = 0.$$

It follows from Theorem 1.1 that S is stable, and Theorem 1.8 shows that it is even algebroid stable. Notice that we cannot apply Theorem 1.2 to conclude that S is strongly stable. In fact, S is not strongly stable: consider the family of Poisson structures π_ϵ on M , with the same symplectic leaves $\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2 \times \{t\}$ but endowed with the symplectic form

$$\omega_t^\epsilon = (1 - t + \epsilon)\omega_1 + (1 + t + \epsilon)\omega_2.$$

We have $\pi_0 = \pi$, but no symplectic leaf $(\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2 \times \{t\}, \omega_t^\epsilon)$ with $\epsilon \neq 0$ can be symplectomorphic to $(\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2, \omega_0)$. This follows by computing the symplectic volumes:

$$\text{vol}(\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2 \times \{t\}, \omega_t^\epsilon) = (2 + \epsilon) \text{vol}(\mathbb{S}^2) \neq 2 \text{vol}(\mathbb{S}^2) = \text{vol}(\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{S}^2, \omega_0).$$

Example 2.6. The previous two examples fit into the following more general scheme which can be used to obtain many other interesting explicit examples. Let $M = S \times I$ where I is an open interval containing the origin and assume that $(\omega_t)_{t \in I}$ is a smooth family of symplectic forms on S . Then M becomes a Poisson manifold with symplectic leaves $(S \times \{t\}, \omega_t)$. We look at the stability of $S = S \times \{0\}$.

The cohomologies relevant for the stability of S depend only on the topology of S and on the variation of symplectic areas:

$$\sigma := \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \omega_t \in \Omega^2(S).$$

In general, any closed two-form $\sigma \in \Omega^2(S)$ induces a cohomology $H_\sigma^\bullet(S)$ as follows: If σ is prequantizable, i.e., if it is the curvature 2-form of some connection on a principal \mathbb{S}^1 -bundle $P \rightarrow S$, then $H_\sigma^\bullet(S) = H^\bullet(P)$. In the general case, one uses an algebraic model which is constructed as follows: Interpreting σ as a chain map

$$\Omega^\bullet(S) \xrightarrow{\sigma \wedge -} \Omega^{\bullet+2}(S),$$

we form its mapping cone, which is a new complex $(C_\sigma(S), d_\sigma)$ with

$$C_\sigma^\bullet(S) = \Omega^\bullet(S) \oplus \Omega^{\bullet-1}(S), \quad d_\sigma(\omega, \eta) = (d\omega + \sigma \wedge \eta, d\eta).$$

Its cohomology, denoted $H_\sigma^\bullet(S)$, is the algebraic model we are looking for. In fact, by a standard short exact sequence argument, one obtains a long exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow H^1(S) \longrightarrow H_\sigma^1(S) \longrightarrow H^0(S) \xrightarrow{\sigma} H^2(S) \longrightarrow \\ \longrightarrow H_\sigma^2(S) \longrightarrow H^1(S) \xrightarrow{\sigma} H^3(S) \longrightarrow H_\sigma^3(S) \longrightarrow \dots \end{aligned}$$

which is an algebraic interpretation of the Gysin sequence for principal \mathbb{S}^1 -bundles. Using this cohomology, one checks that the relative and the restricted Poisson cohomology complexes can be identified as

$$\mathfrak{X}_\pi^\bullet(M, S) \cong \Omega^{\bullet-1}(S), \quad \mathfrak{X}_{\pi, S}^\bullet(M) \cong C_\sigma^\bullet(S) \cong \mathfrak{X}_{\pi, S}^\bullet(M; \nu_S).$$

Hence, we conclude that:

- (i) $H_\pi^2(M, S) = 0$ if and only if $H^1(S) = 0$.
- (ii) $H_{\pi, S}^2(M) = 0$ if and only if $H^2(S) = \mathbb{R}\sigma$ and cup-product by σ determines a injective morphism from $H^1(S)$ into $H^3(S)$.
- (iii) $H_{\pi, S}^1(M; \nu_S) = 0$ if and only if $H^1(S) = 0$ and σ is non-zero in cohomology.

3. OUTLINE OF THE PROOFS

We now give an outline of the proof of Theorem 1.1 (the proofs of the other two theorems are variations of the same idea). The first step, consists of a simple but crucial remark. Each of the other steps correspond to each of the sections to follow.

Step 1: The first step exploits the cosymplectic nature of small transversals to a symplectic leaf. Recall that a **cosymplectic submanifold** of (M, π) is any immersed submanifold $N \hookrightarrow M$ with the property that

$$T_x M = T_x N + (T_x N)^{\perp, \pi}, (x \in N),$$

where $(T_x N)^{\perp, \pi} = \pi^\sharp((T_x N)^0)$. By a dimension counting argument, the last sum must actually be a direct sum. Each such submanifold carries an “induced” Poisson structure π_N which is defined as follows. Given $\xi_x, \eta_x \in T_x^* N$ choose extensions $\tilde{\xi}_x, \tilde{\eta}_x \in T_x^* M$ which vanish on $(T_x N)^\perp$, and define

$$\pi_N(\xi_x, \eta_x) := \pi(\tilde{\xi}_x, \tilde{\eta}_x).$$

One can check that this is choice independent and that the resulting tensor is Poisson. Note that the cosymplectic condition is an open condition both for $x \in M$ and for π in the space of Poisson structures with the C^κ -topology. For a detailed discussion of this kind of submanifolds and its properties we refer to [3, Section 8].

Let us recall now that one calls a Poisson structure θ on the total space of a bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$ **horizontally non-degenerate** if the fibers of E are cosymplectic with respect to θ . Let S be an embedded symplectic leaf S of a Poisson manifold (M, π) . Our first remark is that if we are interested on the behavior around S of Poisson structures which are close to π , then we can restrict our attention to the case where $M = E$ is a vector bundle over S and to Poisson structures $\theta \in \mathfrak{X}^2(E)$ which are horizontally non-degenerated. Indeed, we just take $E = \nu(S)$, which can be identified with an arbitrarily small open neighborhood of S in M via an exponential map construction. Since the fibers of E are transverse to S , π satisfies the cosymplectic condition at points of S . Hence, if the exponential map is properly chosen, π and all nearby θ will be horizontally nondegenerated.

Step 2: The second step is to identify the algebraic structure underlying horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structures. This is a certain bigraded algebra $\Omega_E^{\bullet, \bullet}$ which is endowed with a graded Lie bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$. We observe that horizontally non-degenerated bivector fields θ correspond to elements in the algebra which break into three homogeneous components, defining a triple $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$. The condition for a bivector to be Poisson (i.e., $[\theta, \theta] = 0$) translates into certain equations involving the homogeneous components, which we call “the structure equations” of the triple. They can be expressed in an elegant and efficient way using the graded Lie bracket. Moreover, this algebraic structure also allows us to define operations of “restriction” and “linearization” along a section, which will be crucial for the proofs. Along the way, we obtain a reformulation of Vorobjev’s description of horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structures (see [18]).

Step 3: In this step we use sections $s \in \Gamma(E)$ to produce symplectic leaves: any $s \in \Gamma(E)$ defines a submanifold of E diffeomorphic to S , namely its graph

$$\text{Graph}(s) := \{s(x) : x \in S\} \subset E.$$

We will answer the following question: given a horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structure θ , with associated triple $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$, when does a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ define a symplectic leaf $\text{Graph}(s)$ of θ ? We will see that one can restrict the first two components of the triple along s to obtain an element

$$c_{\theta, s} := (\theta^\vee|_s, \Gamma_\theta|_s) \in \Omega_S^1$$

whose vanishing is equivalent to $\text{Graph}(s)$ being a symplectic leaf of θ .

Step 4: In this step we determine the p.d.e. that $c_{\theta,s}$ satisfies arising from the condition that θ is Poisson. We will see that this p.d.e. is just the “linearization” along s of the structure equations of the geometric triple, and that it takes the form

$$\bar{d}_{\theta,s}(c_{\theta,s}) = 0,$$

where $\bar{d}_{\theta,s}$ is an operator obtained by linearizing the Poisson cohomology operator around s . When $\theta = \pi$ and s is the zero section, $\bar{d}_{\pi,0}$ will be just the differential on the complex computing the relative Poisson cohomology $H_\pi^\bullet(M, S)$, while the kernel of $\bar{d}_{\pi,0}$ on $\Gamma(E)$ is precisely the parameter space $\Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_S^0)$ which appears in the statement of the theorem.

Step 5: Suppose θ is close to π . By Step 3, in order to produce symplectic leaves of θ diffeomorphic to S , we need to look for sections s such that $c_{\theta,s} = 0$. We will find them among the critical points of the functional

$$\Phi_\theta(s) = \|c_{\theta,s}\|^2,$$

for some convenient Sobolev norm $\|\cdot\|$. One must therefore make the appropriate choices of Hilbert spaces, and check that the operations of restriction and linearization along sections still make sense and are continuous. In this step, we take care of the necessary analytic machinery.

Step 6: When $\theta = \pi$, $s = 0$ is a degenerate critical point of the functional Φ_θ . Also, any section in $\Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_S^0)$ is also a zero of Φ_π . Hence, we restrict Φ_π to the orthogonal complement W of $\Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_S^0)$ in $\Gamma(E)$. Then $s = 0$ becomes a strongly non-degenerate critical point of Φ_π , hence nearby θ 's will produce functionals Φ_θ which admit critical points parametrized by $\Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_S^0)$. In this final step we will show that any small enough critical point s of Φ_θ must satisfy $c_{\theta,s} = 0$.

First, the critical point condition is equivalent to

$$\bar{d}_{\pi,0}\bar{d}_{\theta,s}^*(c_{\theta,s}) = 0.$$

This, combined with the equation already established in Step 4, shows that $c_{\theta,s}$ is in the kernel of the operator

$$\Delta_{\theta,s} := \bar{d}_{\pi,0}\bar{d}_{\theta,s}^*(c_{\theta,s}) + \bar{d}_{\pi,0}^*\bar{d}_{\theta,s}(c_{\theta,s}),$$

defined on the appropriate Sobolev spaces. However, when $\theta = \pi$ and $s = 0$, we show that the ellipticity of the complex computing $H_\pi^\bullet(M, S)$ implies that the operator $\Delta_{\pi,0}$ is invertible. It follows that $\Delta_{\theta,s}$ must be an isomorphism for s small enough and θ close to π . Hence, we must have $c_{\theta,s} = 0$.

4. ALGEBRAIC-GEOMETRIC FRAMEWORK

In this section we fix a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$ and we focus our attention on horizontally non-degenerated Poisson bivectors $\theta \in \mathfrak{X}^2(E)$. We introduce a bigraded algebra $\Omega_E^{\bullet,\bullet}$, endowed with a graded Lie bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$, that allows for an efficient description of horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structures in terms of triples. In the next two sections we will use this algebraic structure to define operations of “restriction” and “linearization” along a section. The description of horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structures in terms of geometric triples appeared first in Vorobjev’s (see [18]), but he did not make explicit use of the graded Lie algebra Ω_E , which plays a central role in our approach.

4.1. The bigraded algebra Ω_E . The (q, p) -component of Ω_E is obtained as follows. We consider the vector bundle $\wedge^p T^*S \otimes \wedge^q E$ and take its pullback under the projection $p : E \rightarrow S$. Then $\Omega_E^{q,p}$ is the space of sections of this pullback:

$$\Omega_E^{q,p} := \Gamma(p^*(\wedge^p T^*S \otimes \wedge^q E)).$$

It will also be convenient to consider the “restriction” of Ω_E to S , denoted Ω_S , which is just the space of differential forms in S with values in $\wedge E$. Its (q, p) -component is then:

$$\Omega_S^{q,p} = \Omega^p(S; \wedge^q E).$$

Note that, algebraically,

$$\Omega_E = \Omega_S \otimes_{C^\infty(S)} C^\infty(E).$$

Therefore, we can also view $\Omega_E^{q,p}$ as the space of p -forms on S with values in q -vertical multivector fields on E :

$$\Omega_E^{q,p} = \Omega^p(S) \otimes_{C^\infty(S)} \mathfrak{X}^q(\text{Vert}),$$

where $\text{Vert} = \text{Ker } dp \subset TE$ denotes the vertical subbundle and $\mathfrak{X}^q(\text{Vert})$ the vertical multivector fields: $\mathfrak{X}^q(\text{Vert}) := \Gamma(\wedge^q \text{Vert}) \subset \mathfrak{X}^q(E)$.

The last description of Ω_E shows that this space is naturally endowed with a bracket

$$[\cdot, \cdot]_{\Omega_E} : \Omega_E^{q,p} \times \Omega_E^{q',p'} \longrightarrow \Omega_E^{q+q'-1, p+p'}$$

which arises from the wedge product of forms on S and the Schouten bracket on $\mathfrak{X}^\bullet(\text{Vert})$: if $\alpha_1 \in \Omega_E^{q,p}$ and $\alpha_2 \in \Omega_E^{q',p'}$ we set

$$\begin{aligned} [\alpha_1, \alpha_2]_{\Omega_E}(X_1, \dots, X_{p+p'}) := \\ \sum_{\sigma} (-1)^{|\sigma|} [\alpha_1(X_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, X_{\sigma(p)}), \alpha_2(X_{\sigma(p+1)}, \dots, X_{\sigma(p+p')})]. \end{aligned}$$

Henceforth we will drop the subscript Ω_E from the notation (this is consistent with the fact that we use $[\cdot, \cdot]$ for the Schouten bracket and that this bracket extends it).

If one considers local coordinates (U, x^i) on M and a local frame (e_a) of E over U , inducing fiberwise coordinates (y^a) on E , an element $u \in \Omega_E^{q,p}$ is written as:

$$(2) \quad u = u_I^J(x, y) \, dx^I \otimes \partial y_J$$

for some functions $u_I^J \in C^\infty(p^{-1}(U))$. Here $I = (i_1, \dots, i_p)$ is a multi-index of length $|I| = p$, $J = (a_1, \dots, a_q)$ is a multi-index of length $|J| = q$, and we sum over repeated multi-indices. The elements dx^I are homogeneous of degree $(0, p)$ and defined by

$$dx^I = dx^{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx^{i_p},$$

while the elements ∂y_J are homogeneous of degree $(q, 0)$ and, according to our two descriptions of Ω_E , can be interpreted either as a section of $\wedge^q \text{Vert}$ or as a section of $\wedge^q E$:

$$\partial y_J = \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{i_1}} \wedge \dots \wedge \frac{\partial}{\partial y^{i_q}} = e_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge e_{i_q}.$$

We will call the $u_I^J(x, y)$ the **local coefficients** of the element u . Notice that $\Omega_S \subset \Omega_E$ consists of those elements whose local coefficients do not depend on y . We will also need the subspace $\Omega_{E, \text{lin}} \subset \Omega_E$ consisting of those elements whose local coefficients $u_I^J(x, y)$ are linear in y . In a more invariant form, they can be identified with

$$\Omega_{E, \text{lin}} = \Omega_S \otimes_{C^\infty(S)} \Gamma(E^*) = \Omega(S; \wedge E \otimes E^*),$$

where we think of a section of E^* as a fiberwise linear function on E .

Remark 4.1. Notice that $[\cdot, \cdot]$ is trivial on Ω_S , induces a Lie algebra structure on $\Omega_{E, \text{lin}}$, and makes Ω_S into a representation of $\Omega_{E, \text{lin}}$: for each $v \in \Omega_{E, \text{lin}}$ we have

$$\text{ad}_v : \Omega_S \rightarrow \Omega_S, \quad w \mapsto [v, w].$$

Note also that, the Lie bracket induced on the subspace $\Omega_{E, \text{lin}}$ and its representation Ω_S , is purely algebraic: it involves no derivatives and takes place fiberwise.

Connections also fit naturally in this framework. Let Γ be a connection on E , i.e., a horizontal distribution $\text{Hor}_\Gamma \subset TE$ with the property that

$$TE = \text{Hor}_\Gamma \oplus \text{Vert}.$$

The corresponding horizontal lift operation $\text{hor} = \text{hor}_\Gamma$,

$$\text{hor}_e : T_{p(e)}S \longrightarrow T_eE, \quad (e \in E)$$

associates to each vector $X \in T_{p(e)}S$ the unique horizontal vector $\text{hor}_e(X) \in \text{Hor}_{\Gamma,e}$ that projects to X under p . If one introduces local coordinates (x^i, y^a) as above, the connection Γ is determined by functions $\Gamma_i^j(x, y)$ such that:

$$(3) \quad \text{hor}_\Gamma\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}\right) = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^i} + \Gamma_i^a(x, y) \frac{\partial}{\partial y^a}.$$

We call $\Gamma_i^a(x, y)$ the local coefficients of the connection Γ .

A connection can be interpreted in terms of the graded algebra Ω_E as an operator

$$d_\Gamma : \Omega_E^{\bullet, \bullet} \longrightarrow \Omega_E^{\bullet, \bullet+1},$$

defined by the following Koszul type formula:

$$\begin{aligned} (d_\Gamma \omega)(X_1, \dots, X_{p+1}) = & \\ & \sum_i (-1)^{i+1} \mathcal{L}_{\text{hor}(X_i)}(\omega(X_1, \dots, \widehat{X_i}, \dots, X_{p+1})) + \\ & + \sum_{i < j} (-1)^{i+j} \omega([X_i, X_j], \dots, \widehat{X_i}, \dots, \widehat{X_j}, \dots, X_{p+1}), \end{aligned}$$

for $\omega \in \Omega_E^{q,p}$, $X_1, \dots, X_{p+1} \in \mathfrak{X}(S)$.

The operator d_Γ usually fails to be a differential. This failure is measured by the curvature of the connection Γ , which is usually defined by the expression

$$\Omega_\Gamma(X, Y) = [\text{hor}(X), \text{hor}(Y)] - \text{hor}([X, Y]) \in \mathfrak{X}(\text{Vert}),$$

for $X, Y \in \mathfrak{X}(S)$. In our context, this tensor can be viewed as an element in our bigraded algebra $\Omega_\Gamma \in \Omega_E^{1,2}$, and we have:

$$d_\Gamma^2 = \text{ad}_{\Omega_\Gamma}.$$

Linear connections fit into this framework as follows. A linear connection Γ on E determines (and is determined by) a covariant derivative operator $\nabla : \mathfrak{X}(S) \otimes \Gamma(E) \rightarrow \Gamma(E)$. In local coordinates, Γ is linear iff the coefficients $\Gamma_a^i(x, y)$ are linear in y :

$$\Gamma_i^a(x, y) = \Gamma_{i,b}^a(x) y^b,$$

and the associated covariant derivative operator is then given by:

$$\nabla_{\frac{\partial}{\partial x^i}} e_a = \Gamma_{i,a}^b e_b.$$

Alternatively, one can use the bigraded algebra Ω_E . A connection Γ is linear if and only if d_Γ preserves $\Omega_{E,\text{lin}}$. In this case, d_Γ also preserves Ω_S and its restriction to $\Omega_S^{1,\bullet} = \Omega^\bullet(S; E)$ is an operator

$$d_\Gamma : \Omega^\bullet(S; E) \rightarrow \Omega^{\bullet+1}(S; E)$$

which is just another way of viewing the covariant derivative associated to the linear connection.

4.2. The geometric triples $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$. After these preliminaries about connections, we can now return to the study of horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structures. Recall that a bivector field $\theta \in \mathfrak{X}^2(E)$ is horizontally nondegenerated if

$$TE = \text{Vert} \oplus (\text{Vert})^{\perp, \theta}.$$

Therefore, we have a connection Γ_θ with horizontal distribution defined by

$$\text{Hor}_\theta := (\text{Vert})^{\perp, \theta}.$$

Next, observe that θ “restricts” to the fibers of E , since these fibers are cosymplectic submanifolds. We denote this “restriction” by $\theta^\vee \in \Omega_E^{2,0}$. Finally, the cosymplectic condition also implies that the restriction of θ to Hor_θ is non-degenerate hence it defines an element in $\wedge^2 \text{Hor}_\theta^*$. The differential $dp : TE \rightarrow TS$ induces an isomorphism $\text{Hor}_\theta \rightarrow TS$ and the image of $(\theta|_{\text{Hor}_\theta})^{-1}$ under this map is an element $\mathbb{F}_\theta \in \Omega_E^{0,2}$. In this way, to a horizontally non-degenerated bivector field θ we associate a triple $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$. Conversely, it is not difficult to see that the bivector θ can be reconstructed from the resulting triple.

Let us now ask what does the condition for θ to be Poisson, i.e., $[\theta, \theta] = 0$, corresponds to, in terms of the associated triple $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$. The answer is given by the following result due to Vorobjev [18]:

Theorem 4.2. *There is a 1-1 correspondence between horizontally non-degenerate Poisson structures θ on a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$ and triples $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$, consisting of elements $\theta^\vee \in \Omega_E^{2,0}$, $\mathbb{F}_\theta \in \Omega_E^{0,2}$ and a connection Γ_θ on E , satisfying the structure equations:*

- (i) $[\theta^\vee, \theta^\vee] = 0$ (i.e., θ^\vee is a vertical Poisson structure).
- (ii) $d_{\Gamma_\theta} \theta^\vee = 0$ (i.e., parallel transport along Γ preserves θ^\vee).
- (iii) $d_{\Gamma_\theta} \mathbb{F} = 0$.
- (iv) $\Omega_{\Gamma_\theta} = [\mathbb{F}_\theta, \theta^\vee]$.

There is another way of looking at the structure equations in terms of the graded algebra Ω_E . For that, we observe that:

- The vertical bivector $\theta^\vee \in \Omega_E^{2,0}$ induces an operator

$$d_\theta^{1,0} := \text{ad}_{\theta^\vee} : \Omega_E^{q,p} \rightarrow \Omega_E^{q+1,p};$$

- The connection Γ_θ induces an operator

$$d_\theta^{0,1} := d_{\Gamma_\theta} : \Omega_E^{q,p} \rightarrow \Omega_E^{q,p+1};$$

- The 2-form $\mathbb{F}_\theta \in \Omega_E^{2,0}$ induces also an operator

$$d_\theta^{-1,2} := \text{ad}_{\mathbb{F}_\theta} : \Omega_E^{q,p} \rightarrow \Omega_E^{q-1,p+2}.$$

We also introduce the total operator (which rises the total degree by 1!):

$$(4) \quad d_\theta := d_\theta^{1,0} + d_\theta^{0,1} + d_\theta^{-1,2} : \Omega_E \rightarrow \Omega_E,$$

Then we have:

Proposition 4.3. *If $\theta \in \mathfrak{X}^2(E)$ is a horizontally nondegenerated Poisson tensor on a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$ then $d_\theta^2 = 0$. The complex (Ω_E, d_θ) is isomorphic to the Poisson cohomology complex $(\mathfrak{X}(E), d_\theta)$.*

Proof. The structure equations from Theorem 4.2 simply say that the operators d_{Γ_θ} , ad_{θ^\vee} and $\text{ad}_{\mathbb{F}_\theta}$ all commute, with the exception of:

$$(5) \quad [d_{\Gamma_\theta}, d_{\Gamma_\theta}] = -[\text{ad}_{\mathbb{F}_\theta}, \text{ad}_{\theta^\vee}].$$

These equations are equivalent to the single equation $d_\theta^2 = 0$.

Also, one checks easily that the decomposition

$$TE = \text{Hor}_\theta \oplus \text{Vert} \cong T^*S \oplus \text{Vert},$$

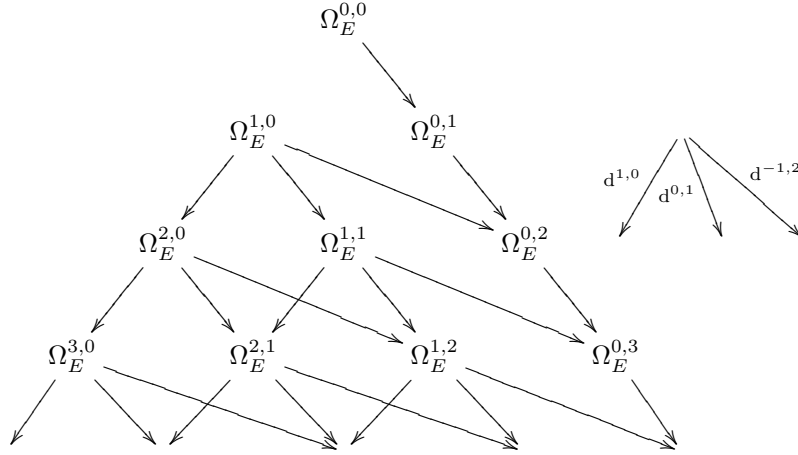
induces an isomorphism (which depends on θ):

$$\mathfrak{X}^k(E) \cong \bigoplus_{p+q=k} \Omega_E^{p,q},$$

and the Poisson differential on $\mathfrak{X}(E)$ corresponds to the differential d_θ on Ω_E . \square

Remark 4.4. The propositions states that θ Poisson implies that $d_\theta^2 = 0$ on Ω_E . However, the converse is not true. This is because condition (iv) in Theorem 4.2 implies that (5) holds, but the converse is not true.

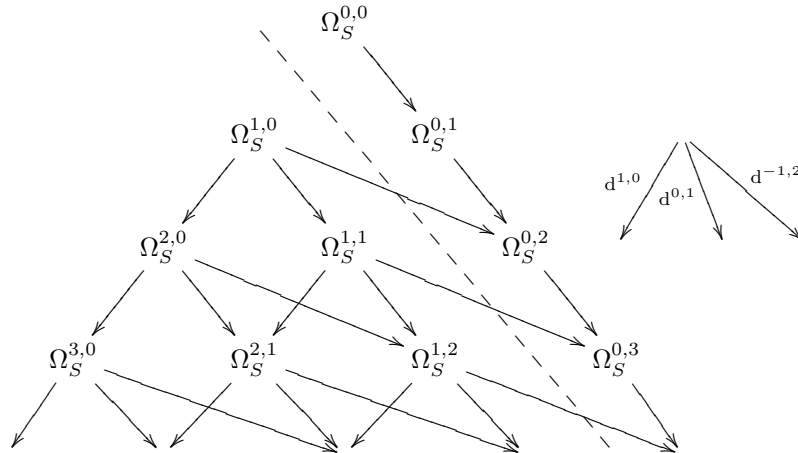
It is convenient to picture the complex (Ω_E, d_θ) , using the decomposition (5), as a diagram:



Note also that, if S is a symplectic leaf, then under the isomorphism $\mathfrak{X}(E) \cong \Omega_E$ the restricted and relative complexes are mapped to the complexes:

$$\mathfrak{X}_S^k(E) \cong \bigoplus_{p+q=k} \Omega_S^{q,p}, \quad \mathfrak{X}^k(E, S) \cong \bigoplus_{\substack{p+q=k \\ q \geq 1}} \Omega_S^{q,p}.$$

The differential of the restricted complex Ω_S is the restriction of the differential of the complex Ω_E , so we also have a decomposition as in (5) and a similar diagram:



The top diagonal row in this diagram is just the de Rham complex of S . The part of the diagram below the dotted line will be denoted by $\overline{\Omega}_S$ and it should be viewed

as a quotient of Ω_S rather than a subspace; we denote by $\overline{d}_{\theta,s}$ its associated operator. Actually, the isomorphism between Ω_S and $\mathfrak{X}_S(E)$ induces an identification between the short exact sequence defining the relative complex $\mathfrak{X}(E, S)$ and the one associated to the inclusion of $\Omega(S)$ inside Ω_S :

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega^\bullet(S) & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{X}_S^\bullet(E) & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{X}^\bullet(E, S) \longrightarrow 0. \\ & & \downarrow \text{Id} & & \downarrow \sim & & \downarrow \sim \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \Omega^\bullet(S) & \longrightarrow & \Omega_S & \longrightarrow & \overline{\Omega}_S \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

Hence, $\overline{\Omega}_S$ can be identified with the relative complex $\mathfrak{X}(E, S)$.

5. RESTRICTING TO SECTIONS

In the previous section we have studied horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structures θ on the total space of a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$ and explained that they correspond to certain triples $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$ which interact inside a graded algebra Ω_E . In this section, we place ourselves in the same framework and we look at the condition that a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ has to satisfy so that $\text{Graph}(s) \subset E$ is a symplectic leaf of θ .

The relevant algebraic operation for solving this question is “**the restriction operation**” from Ω_E to Ω_S induced by a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$. For functions, this is just the map:

$$s^* : C^\infty(E) \rightarrow C^\infty(S), \quad f \mapsto f \circ s.$$

Taking the tensor product with Ω_S we obtain the restriction map

$$\Omega_E \longrightarrow \Omega_S, \quad \omega \mapsto \omega|_s.$$

This notation is justified since, in local coordinates, this restriction map sends an element (2) with coefficients $u_{I,J}(x, y)$ into a new element with coefficients $u_{I,J}(x, s(x))$.

We also need the operation of restricting a connection Γ on E along a section s . This is a bit more subtle and will be further explained in the next section. For now, we take the following ad-hoc description: Given a connection Γ on E and a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$, the **restriction of Γ to s** is defined as the E -valued 1-form on S , denoted $\Gamma|_s \in \Omega_S^{1,1}$, given by

$$\Gamma|_s(X_x) := \text{hor}_{s(x)}(X_x) - (d_x s)(X_x) \in \text{Vert}_{s(x)} \cong E_x.$$

In local coordinates, if $\Gamma_i^a(x, y)$ are the coefficients (3) of Γ , then

$$(6) \quad \Gamma|_s = \left(\Gamma_i^a(x, s(x)) - \frac{\partial s^a}{\partial x^i} \right) dx^i \otimes \partial_{y^a}.$$

Assume now that one is given a horizontally nondegenerate Poisson structure θ on E , with associated triple $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$. For each section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ we define

$$c(\theta, s) := \theta^\vee|_s + \Gamma_\theta|_s \in \Omega_S^{2,0} \oplus \Omega_S^{1,1}.$$

Proposition 5.1. *Given a horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structure θ on the vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$, a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ defines a symplectic leaf of θ if and only if $c(\theta, s) = 0$.*

Proof. Recall that the horizontal non-degeneracy of θ at $s(x)$ means that:

$$T_{s(x)}E = \text{Vert}_{s(x)} \oplus \text{Hor}_{s(x)} = \text{Vert}_{s(x)} \oplus \theta_{s(x)}^\#(\text{Vert}_{s(x)})^0.$$

Now, given a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$, observe that $\text{Graph}(s)$ is a symplectic leaf of θ if and only if for every $x \in S$ we have:

$$\theta_{s(x)}^\#(T_{s(x)}^*E) = T_{s(x)}(\text{Graph}(s)).$$

Hence, we see that this holds iff we have:

$$\text{Ker } \theta_{s(x)}^\sharp = (\text{Hor}_{s(x)})^0, \quad \theta_{s(x)}^\sharp(\text{Vert}_{s(x)})^0 = T_{s(x)}(\text{Graph}(s)).$$

The first condition says that $\theta^\vee|_s = 0$, while the second condition says that $\Gamma_\theta|_s = 0$. So, together, they are equivalent to $c(\theta, s) = 0$. \square

6. LINEARIZING ALONG SECTIONS

As in the previous sections, our scenario is a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$, where we study horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structures $\theta \in \mathfrak{X}^2(E)$. In the previous two sections, we have interpreted such Poisson structures as geometric triples $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$ and we have discussed their “restrictions” (read: “0-th order approximations”) along sections $s \in \Gamma(E)$. We will now study higher order approximations.

6.1. Linearization along sections. The notion of linearization along sections of E is more or less obvious in local coordinates. However, for our purpose it is much more convenient to have a global description, which is independent of such choices. In order to formulate this, we first introduce an algebraic operation which governs this process.

The dilatation and translation operators combine so that, for each $t \in \mathbb{R}$ and $s \in \Gamma(E)$, one has an affine bundle map

$$a_t^s : E \rightarrow E, \quad e \mapsto te + s(p(e)).$$

This induces a map on Ω_E which we still denote by the same letter:

$$a_t^s : \Omega_E \rightarrow \Omega_E.$$

If we think of Ω_E as the tensor product $\Omega_S \otimes C^\infty(E)$, then a_t^s only acts on the second component. The operation we are interested in is obtained by rescaling: for $t \neq 0$ we set

$$(7) \quad \phi_t^s := \frac{1}{t} a_t^s : \Omega_E \rightarrow \Omega_E.$$

The reason for the rescaling will be clear in the sequel. In local coordinates (x, y) , one sees that the effect of the operation ϕ_t^s is very simple:

$$u = u_{I,J}(x, y) \, dx^I \otimes \partial y_J \longmapsto \phi_t^s(u) = \frac{1}{t} u_{I,J}(x, ty + s(x)) \, dx^I \otimes \partial y_J.$$

The following properties of ϕ_t^s should now be clear:

- ϕ_t^s **preserves the bracket** $[\cdot, \cdot]$. In particular, for each $u \in \Omega_E$,

$$\phi_t^s(\text{ad}_u) = \text{ad}_{\phi_t^s(u)},$$

where, for any operator D acting on Ω_E , we set

$$\phi_t^s(D) := \phi_t^s \circ D \circ (\phi_t^s)^{-1}.$$

- ϕ_t^s **acts on connections**: for any connection Γ on E , there is a unique connection $\phi_t^s \Gamma$ satisfying:

$$\phi_t^s(d\Gamma) = d_{\phi_t^s \Gamma}.$$

In local coordinates, a connection with local coefficients $\Gamma_i^a(x, y)$ is transformed to a new connection with local coefficients:

$$(\phi_t^s \Gamma)_i^a(x, y) = \frac{1}{t} \left(\Gamma_i^a(x, ty + s(x)) - \frac{\partial s^a}{\partial x_i}(x) \right).$$

Note also that, using $\phi_t := \phi_t^0$, the subspace Ω_S of Ω_E can be characterized as:

$$(8) \quad \Omega_S = \{u \in \Omega_E : \phi_t(u) = \frac{1}{t}u, \forall t \neq 0\},$$

while the subspace $\Omega_{E,\text{lin}}$ can be characterized as:

$$(9) \quad \Omega_{E,\text{lin}} = \{u \in \Omega_E : \phi_t(u) = u, \forall t \neq 0\}.$$

On the other hand, for an arbitrary $u \in \Omega_E$, one has

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} t \phi_t^s(u) = u|_s.$$

This is an equality of sections of a bundle over S , so this limit is fiberwise and so there is no issues about topologies. We can interpret this as saying that the formal development of $\phi_t^s(u)$ in powers of t starts with the term t^{-1} with coefficient $u|_s$.

Let us consider the next term in the formal development of $\phi_t^s(u)$ in powers of t :

$$(10) \quad \phi_t^s(u) \sim \frac{1}{t}u|_s + d_s u + o(t).$$

More precisely, we set:

Definition 6.1. For $s \in \Gamma(E)$ and $u \in \Omega_E$, the element $d_s u \in \Omega_{E,\text{lin}}$ defined by:

$$d_s u = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{t \phi_t^s(u) - u|_s}{t},$$

is called the **linearization of u along s** .

In order to see that $d_s u$ does lie in $\Omega_{E,\text{lin}}$ one can proceed formally using (9) or just use local coordinates: an element $u \in \Omega_E$, with local coefficients $u_{I,J}(x, y)$, has a linearization $d_s u$ which has local coefficients:

$$(d_s u)_{I,J} = \frac{\partial u_{I,J}}{\partial y^b}(x, s(x))y^b.$$

Finally, a similar discussion applies to connections, so we describe this briefly. First of all, the restriction $\Gamma|_s$ introduced in the previous section is the first coefficient in the formal development of $\phi_t^s \Gamma$:

$$\phi_t^s \Gamma \sim \frac{1}{t}\Gamma|_s + d_s \Gamma + o(t).$$

This development should be understood at the level of operators acting on Ω_E :

$$d_{\phi_t^s \Gamma} \sim \frac{1}{t} \text{ad}_{\Gamma|_s} + d_{d_s \Gamma} + o(t).$$

Therefore, we set:

Definition 6.2. Given a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ and a connection Γ on E , the linear connection $d_s \Gamma$ defined by:

$$d_{d_s \Gamma} = \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{t d_{\phi_t^s \Gamma} - \text{ad}_{\Gamma|_s}}{t}$$

is called the **linearization of Γ along s** .

In order to see that $d_s \Gamma$ is indeed a linear connection, we can use local coordinates: if $\Gamma_i^a(x, y)$ are the local coefficients of Γ , then the local coefficients of the linearization $d_s \Gamma$ are:

$$(d_s \Gamma)_a^i = \frac{\partial \Gamma_i^a}{\partial y^b}(x, s(x))y^b.$$

Remark 6.3. Note that since both $d_s u$ and $d_s \Gamma$ are linear, operators of type $\text{ad}_{d_s u}$ or $d_{d_s \Gamma}$ map Ω_S into itself.

6.2. Linearizing Poisson structures around sections. Let θ be a horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structure, with associated geometric triple $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$. For any section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ we define the **linearization of d_θ along s** as the operator $d_{\theta,s} : \Omega_S \rightarrow \Omega_S$ defined by

$$d_{\theta,s} := \text{ad}_{d_s \theta^\vee} + d_s \Gamma_\theta + \text{ad}_{d_s \mathbb{F}_\theta}.$$

This is an operator which raises the total degree by 1.

The linearization along s of the structures equations for the geometric triple $(\theta^\vee, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$ given by Theorem 4.2 takes the form:

Proposition 6.4. *Let $\theta|_s \in \Omega_S^2$ be the element of total degree 2 defined by:*

$$\theta|_s := \theta^\vee|_s + \Gamma_\theta|_s + \mathbb{F}_\theta|_s.$$

Then:

$$(11) \quad d_{\theta,s}(\theta|_s) = 0.$$

Proof. Note that equation (11) brakes into the following components:

- (i) $[\theta^\vee|_s, d_s \theta^\vee] = 0.$
- (ii) $[\Gamma_\theta|_s, d_s \theta^\vee] + d_s \Gamma_\theta(\theta^\vee|_s) = 0.$
- (iii) $[\Gamma_\theta|_s, d_s \mathbb{F}] + d_s \Gamma_\theta(\mathbb{F}_\theta|_s) = 0.$
- (iv) $d_s \Gamma_\theta(\Gamma|_s) + [d_s \mathbb{F}_\theta, \theta^\vee|_s] = 0.$

The proof is straightforward: one just applies the operators ϕ_t^s to the structure equations given by Theorem 4.2 and takes the limit as $t \rightarrow 0$. Equivalently, we can expand formally in powers of t and compare the coefficients of t^{-1} .

For instance, starting from $[\theta^\vee, \theta^\vee] = 0$ we obtain

$$\left[\frac{1}{t} \theta^\vee|_s + d_s \theta^\vee + \dots, \frac{1}{t} \theta^\vee|_s + d_s \theta^\vee + \dots \right] = 0,$$

which is equivalent to:

$$\frac{1}{t^2} [\theta^\vee|_s, \theta^\vee|_s] + \frac{1}{t} [\theta^\vee|_s, d_s \theta^\vee] + \dots = 0.$$

The coefficient of t^{-1} gives $[\theta^\vee|_s, d_s \theta^\vee] = 0$, i.e., the first equation in the list. The other equations follow similarly. \square

6.3. Linearizing Poisson structures along a symplectic leaf. Let π be a horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structure on E which has the zero section as a symplectic leaf. As usual, we denote by $(\pi^\vee, \Gamma_\pi, \mathbb{F}_\pi)$ the associated geometric triple.

The operation of restriction to the zero section only gives us the symplectic form ω_S on S :

$$\pi|_S := \pi^\vee|_0 + \Gamma_\pi|_0 + \mathbb{F}_\pi|_0 = \omega_S.$$

More interesting information lies in the next order approximation, which gives us elements:

$$\pi_{\text{lin}}^\vee := d_0 \pi^\vee \in \Gamma(\wedge^2 E \otimes E^*),$$

$$\sigma := d_0 \mathbb{F}_\pi \in \Omega^2(S; E^*),$$

$$\Gamma_{\pi, \text{lin}} := d_0 \Gamma_\pi \text{ (a linear connection on } E\text{)}.$$

The linearized structure equations (11), given in Proposition 6.4, give us no information about this linearized data: those equations arose by comparing the coefficients of t^{-1} in the formal expansion resulting from the structure equations. In our case, however, the next coefficients will only depend on the linearized data, and we obtain the following result of Vorobjev ([18]):

Proposition 6.5. *Let π be a horizontally non-degenerated Poisson structure on a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$ which has the zero section as a symplectic leaf. The geometric triple $(\pi_{\text{lin}}^\vee, \Gamma_{\pi, \text{lin}}, \omega_S + \sigma)$ satisfies the structure equations.*

Note that, in this case, $d_{\pi, 0}$ squares to zero and $(\Omega_S, d_{\pi, 0})$ is just the Poisson cohomology complex of π restricted to S .

The proposition shows that, after restricting to an open neighborhood of the zero section (where $\omega_S + \sigma$ stays non-degenerate), the triple $(\pi_{\text{lin}}^\vee, \Gamma_{\pi, \text{lin}}, \omega_S + \sigma)$ defines a new Poisson structure, which we will denote by $j_S^1 \pi$ and called the **first jet approximation to π along S** . It follows immediately that $j_S^1 \pi$ has the following properties:

- (i) The zero section $S \hookrightarrow \nu(S)$ is a symplectic leaf of $j_S^1 \pi$;
- (ii) The normal spaces $\nu(S)_x$, with their linear Poisson structures (which coincide with π_{lin}^\vee) are cosymplectic submanifolds of $(\nu(S), j_S^1 \pi)$;
- (iii) If S' is the symplectic leaf through $u \in \nu(S)$ then:

$$T_u S' = \text{Hor}_u \oplus T_u \mathcal{O}_u,$$

where Hor_u is the horizontal space of $\Gamma_{\pi, \text{lin}}$ and $\mathcal{O}_u \subset \nu(S)_{p(u)}$ is the coadjoint orbit through u .

This leads to the following corollary, which will be useful later:

Corollary 6.6. *If S' is a symplectic leaf of $j_S^1 \pi$, one has:*

- (i) S' projects diffeomorphic to S iff it is the graph of a flat section $s \in \Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_S^0)$, where $\nu_S^0 \subset \nu_S$ is the subbundle consisting of zeros of π_{lin}^\vee . In particular the space of all such leaves coincides with $H_\pi^1(M, S)$.
- (ii) S' projects diffeomorphic to S and $\omega_{S'}$ is isotopic to ω_S iff S' is the graph of $s \in \Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_S^0)$ and there exists $\beta \in \Omega^1(S)$ such that:

$$d\beta = -\sigma|_S.$$

In particular, the space of all such leaves coincides with the image of the map $H_{\pi, S}^1(M) \rightarrow H_\pi^1(M, S)$.

Proof. From the description of $j_S^1 \pi$ as the geometric triple $(\pi_{\text{lin}}^\vee, \Gamma_{\pi, \text{lin}}, \omega_S + \sigma)$, it is clear that the space of leaves of $j_S^1 \pi$ that project diffeomorphically to S coincides with $\Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu^0(S))$ the space of flat sections of the subbundle $\nu_S^0 \subset \nu_S$, consisting of the zeros of π_{lin}^\vee . Using the Lie algebra bundle ν_S^* , we can describe ν_S^0 as the dual of the abelianization:

$$\nu_{S, x}^0 := (\nu_x^* / [\nu_x^*, \nu_x^*])^* \subset \nu_x.$$

Now the first part follows by observing that the differential $\mathfrak{X}^0(M, S) \rightarrow X^1(M, S)$ vanishes, while the differential $X^1(M, S) \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}^2(M, S)$ associates to a section $s \in \Gamma(\nu(S)) = \mathfrak{X}^1(M, S)$ the pair $(d_{\pi_{\text{lin}}^\vee} s, \nabla s)$. So s is a cocycle iff it is a flat section and takes values in ν_S^0 . Therefore $\Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu_S^0) = H_\pi^1(M, S)$.

For the second part, suppose that $s \in \Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu^0(S))$ describes a leaf S' that projects diffeomorphically to S . From the description of $j_S^1 \pi$ as a geometric triple, we see that $\omega_{S'} = \omega_S + \sigma|_S$. Therefore, by Moser's lemma, the symplectic forms are isotopic iff $[\sigma|_S] = 0$. Now observe that the differential $\mathfrak{X}_S^0(M) \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}_S^1(M)$ associates to a function $f \in C^\infty(S) = \mathfrak{X}_S^0(M)$ the element $(0, df) \in \Gamma(\nu(S)) \oplus \Omega^1(S) = \mathfrak{X}_S^1(M)$, while the differential $\mathfrak{X}^1(M, S) \rightarrow \mathfrak{X}^2(M, S)$ associates to a pair $(s, \beta) \in \mathfrak{X}_S^1(M)$ the triple $(d_{\pi_{\text{lin}}^\vee} s, \nabla s, d\beta + \sigma|_S) \in \mathfrak{X}_S^2(M)$. Hence, the space of such leaves can be identified with the kernel of the map $H_\pi^1(M, S) \rightarrow H^2(S)$. But this kernel coincides with the image of the map $H_{\pi, S}^1(M) \rightarrow H_\pi^1(M, S)$. \square

7. ANALYTIC FRAMEWORK

In this section we consider the analytic machinery needed for the proofs. Throughout this section, S is assumed to be an n -dimensional compact manifold.

For any vector bundle V over S and any integer $k \geq 0$, we denote by $\Gamma^{(k)}(V)$ the Sobolev space of order k associated to V . We should think of it as the space of sections of $V \rightarrow S$, with the property that all distributional derivatives up to order k belong to the space of L^2 -sections of $V \rightarrow S$. We will say that a section s is of class $H^{(k)}$ if it belongs to $\Gamma^{(k)}(V)$. Note that all such spaces can be equipped with inner products $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_k$ so that each $\Gamma^{(k)}(V)$ will be treated as a Hilbert space. Most often, we have $k > \frac{n}{2}$ so that $\Gamma^{(k)}(V)$ is a subspace of the the space $\Gamma^0(V)$ of all continuous sections of V and its elements can be handled pointwise.

One remark concerning our use of adjoints: for a bounded operator $A : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}'$ between two Hilbert spaces, including those induced by differential operators on sections of vector bundles, we will use the Hilbert space adjoint $A^* : \mathcal{H}' \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$, defined by the equation

$$\langle Au, v \rangle_{\mathcal{H}'} = \langle u, A^*v \rangle_{\mathcal{H}}.$$

Now we discuss how the operations of restriction and linearization on a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$, which we have discussed in the previous sections, can still be applied to sections which are no longer smooth, but belong instead to some Sobolev class. We emphasize that most of the times the operations themselves still make sense, since we will use Sobolev norms of orders high enough to insure that all the sections are of class C^0 . However, we still need to assure that the result of applying these operations has the desired Sobolev class and that this process is continuous. This is achieved in the next propositions.

First, some notation: we will denote by $\text{Conn}(E)$ (respectively, $\text{Conn}_{\text{lin}}(E)$) the space of smooth (respectively, linear) connections on the vector bundle E . Note that $\text{Conn}(E)$ is an affine space over $\Gamma(E; p^* \text{Hom}(TM, E))$, so it comes equipped the C^p -topology. On the other hand, $\text{Conn}_{\text{lin}}(E)$ is an affine space over $\Omega^1(S; \text{End}(E))$, so we can also consider on it the $H^{(k)}$ -topology, in which case we denote it by $\text{Conn}_{\text{lin}}^{(k)}(E)$.

Proposition 7.1. *Let E be a vector bundle over a compact manifold S with $\dim S = n$, let $k > \frac{n}{2}$ and consider the C^p -topology on Ω_E and $\text{Conn}(E)$. Then:*

(i) *If $p \geq k$, restriction gives continuous operations*

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_E \times \Gamma^{(k)}(E) &\rightarrow \Omega_S^{(k)}, & (u, s) &\mapsto u|_s, \\ \text{Conn}(E) \times \Gamma^{(k)}(E) &\rightarrow \Omega_S^{(k-1)}, & (\Gamma, s) &\mapsto \Gamma|_s. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) *If $p \geq k + 1$, linearization gives gives continuous operations*

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_E \times \Gamma^{(k)}(E) &\rightarrow \Omega_{E, \text{lin}}^{(k)}, & (u, s) &\mapsto d_s u, \\ \text{Conn}(E) \times \Gamma^{(k)}(E) &\rightarrow \text{Conn}_{\text{lin}}^{(k)}(E), & (\Gamma, s) &\mapsto d_s \Gamma. \end{aligned}$$

(iii) *If $0 \leq r \leq k$, then for any $v \in \Omega_{E, \text{lin}}^{(k)}$ and $\Gamma \in \text{Conn}_{\text{lin}}^{(k)}(E)$ one has:*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ad}_v : \Omega_S^{(r)} &\rightarrow \Omega_S^{(r)}, \\ d_\Gamma : \Omega_S^{(r)} &\rightarrow \Omega_S^{(r-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

The maps $v \mapsto \text{ad}_v$ and $\Gamma \mapsto d_\Gamma$ are continuous into the space of bounded linear operators.

Remark 7.2. In part (iii) of the proposition, we do not exclude the case $r \leq n/2$. In this case, the resulting elements in $\Omega_S^{(r)}$ are no longer represented by continuous sections. To remove any ambiguity, one may wish to read (iii) as follows: For each $v \in \Omega_{E,\text{lin}}^{(k)}$ one has that ad_v maps $\Omega^{(k)}$ into $\Omega^{(k-1)}$ and it uniquely extends to a continuous linear map $\text{ad}_v : \Omega_S^{(r)} \rightarrow \Omega_S^{(r)}$ for all $0 \leq r \leq k$ (satisfying the continuity on v and s , as stated in the proposition). A similar comment applies to the operation d_Γ .

Proof. The first statement in part (i) follows from the fact that if $f(x, y)$ is a function of class C^p and $s(x)$ if of class $H^{(k)}$ (recall that $p \geq k > n/2$), then $f(x, s(x))$ is again of class $H^{(k)}$ (see Lemma 9.9 in [13]). As it is clear from the proof given in [13], this substitution operation is continuous with respect to the indicated topologies. For the second statement we simply note that (see (6)) the expression for $\Gamma|_s$ is a sum involving a substitution operation and a order 1 derivation.

Part (ii) also holds by the same reasons as (i) and Remark 4.1.

For the first statement in part (iii), recall that for $k \geq r \geq 0$ and $k > \frac{n}{2}$, scalar multiplication defines a continuous operation $H^k \times H^r \rightarrow H^r$ (see, e.g., Corollary 9.7 in [13]). Since the operation ad_v is purely algebraic (see Remark 4.1) and it involves only fiberwise multiplications, the result follows. The proof of the second statement in (iii) is similar since, fixing some smooth connection Γ_0 , for any other smooth connection Γ we have $d_\Gamma = d_{\Gamma_0} + C_u$, for some $u \in \Omega^{1,(k)}(S; \text{End}(E))$, where the operation C_u (the “composition with u ”) is again purely algebraic and behaves like a fiberwise multiplication. \square

Corollary 7.3. *Let $p \geq k + 1 > \frac{n}{2} + 1$. Consider the C^p -topology on the space $\mathfrak{X}_{HN}^2(E)$ of (smooth) horizontally nondegenerate bivectors θ on E . Then:*

(i) *For $\theta \in \mathfrak{X}_{HN}^2(E)$ and $s \in \Gamma^{(k)}(E)$, we have*

$$\theta|_s = (\theta^v|_s, \Gamma_\theta|_s, \mathbb{F}_\theta|_s) \in \Omega_S^{(k-1)}$$

and the operation $(\theta, s) \mapsto \theta|_s$ is continuous.

(ii) *For $\theta \in \mathfrak{X}_{HN}^2(E)$ and $s \in \Gamma^{(k)}(E)$ and all $0 \leq r \leq k$, the operator*

$$d_{\theta,s} = \text{ad}_{d_s \theta^v} + d_{d_s \Gamma_\theta} + \text{ad}_{d_s \mathbb{F}_\theta} : \Omega_S^{(r)} \rightarrow \Omega_S^{(r-1)}$$

is continuous and so is the operation $(\theta, s) \mapsto d_{\theta,s}$.

(iii) *For $\theta \in \mathfrak{X}_{HN}^2(E)$ and $s \in \Gamma^{(k)}(E)$ the linearized structure equations hold:*

$$d_{\theta,s}(\theta|_s) = 0.$$

Proof. To prove (i) one applies Proposition 7.1 (i) to the components of the geometric triple induced by θ . To prove (ii), one applies first Proposition 7.1 (ii) to the components of the same geometric triple and then one applies Proposition 7.1 (iii) with $v = d_s \theta^v$, with $v = d_s \mathbb{F}_\theta$ and with $\Gamma = d_s \Gamma_\theta$. The linearized structure equations follows from Proposition 6.4. \square

From the discussion above, it follows that for $k > \frac{n}{2}$ and $s \in \Gamma^{(k)}(E)$, we have a sequence

$$(12) \quad \Omega_S^{1,(k)} \xrightarrow{d_{\theta,s}} \Omega_S^{2,(k-1)} \xrightarrow{d_{\theta,s}} \Omega_S^{3,(k-2)}$$

and a similar sequence for the relative complex:

$$(13) \quad \overline{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)} \xrightarrow{\overline{d}_{\theta,s}} \overline{\Omega}_S^{2,(k-1)} \xrightarrow{\overline{d}_{\theta,s}} \overline{\Omega}_S^{3,(k-2)}$$

(for the notations, see the end of Section 4). The key technical lemma, and the main reason for our choice of Sobolev norms, is the following result.

Proposition 7.4. *Let π be a horizontally non-degenerate Poisson structure on E and we put $d_\pi = d_{\pi,0}$. Then $(\Omega_S^\bullet, d_\pi)$ and $(\overline{\Omega}_S^\bullet, \overline{d}_\pi)$ are elliptic complexes.*

If $H_{\pi,S}^2(M) = 0$, we have:

- (i) *The sequence (12) (with $\theta = \pi$ and $s = 0$) is exact.*
- (ii) *For each p and each r , $d_\pi(\Omega_S^{p,(r)})$ is closed in $\Omega_S^{p+1,(r-1)}$.*
- (iii) *The “laplacian” $\Delta_\pi := d_\pi d_\pi^* + d_\pi^* d_\pi : \Omega_S^{2,(k-1)} \rightarrow \Omega_S^{2,(k-1)}$ is an isomorphism.*

If $H_\pi^2(M, S) = 0$, similar statements hold for the complex $(\overline{\Omega}_S^\bullet, \overline{d}_\pi)$.

Proof. First of all $(\Omega_S^\bullet, d_\pi)$ is the de Rham complex of a transitive Lie algebroid, namely of $T^*M|_S$. It is well-known (exactly by the same arguments as in the case of ordinary de Rham complexes) that the de Rham complexes of transitive Lie algebroids are elliptic. This, together with the ellipticity of the de Rham complex of S , also implies the ellipticity of the quotient $\overline{\Omega}_S^\bullet = \Omega_S^\bullet / \Omega^\bullet(S)$: the symbol complex of $(\overline{\Omega}_S^\bullet, \overline{d}_\pi)$ at non-zero $\xi \in T^*M$ is the quotient of the symbol complex of Ω_S^\bullet at ξ modulo the symbol complex of $\Omega^\bullet(S)$, hence acyclic (being a quotient of two acyclic complexes).

For the proof of the remaining statements, we invoke some general facts about elliptic complexes (see, e.g., [8]), as we now explain. So let us consider an elliptic complex of order m over a compact manifold S :

$$\dots \longrightarrow \Gamma(E^{p-1}) \xrightarrow{D} \Gamma(E^p) \xrightarrow{D} \Gamma(E^{p+1}) \longrightarrow \dots$$

Part (i), follows from the following fact: if the complex is exact at level p , then the same is true for the completed sequence

$$\dots \longrightarrow \Gamma^{(r+m)}(E^{p-1}) \xrightarrow{D} \Gamma^{(r)}(E^p) \xrightarrow{D} \Gamma^{(r-m)}(E^{p+1}) \longrightarrow \dots$$

To see this, recall that there exists a paramatrix P for D , i.e., pseudo-differential operators of order $-m$ satisfying $PD + DP = \text{Id} - K$, for some smoothing operator K . Therefore, if $u \in \Gamma^{(r)}(E^p)$ satisfies $D(u) = 0$, it follows that

$$u = K(u) + D(P(u)).$$

Since $K(u)$ is smooth and is killed by D , we have $K(u) = D(v)$ for some smooth v . On the other hand, $P(u) \in \Gamma^{(r-m)}(E^{p+1})$, because P is of order $-m$. Hence $w = v + P(u)$ belongs to $\Gamma^{(r-m)}(E^{p+1})$ and $u = D(w)$, as desired.

Part (ii) follows from another standard fact for elliptic complexes over compact manifolds: $D(\Gamma^{(m)}(E^p))$ is closed in $\Gamma^{(0)}(E^{p+1})$. Using this, let us check that $D(\Gamma^{(r)}(E^p))$ is closed in $\Gamma^{(r-m)}(E^{p+1})$. So assume that $u_n \in \Gamma^{(r)}(E^p)$ and that $D(u_n)$ converges to u in $\Gamma^{(r-m)}(E^{p+1})$: we want to show that $u = D(v)$, for some $v \in \Gamma^{(r)}(E^p)$. Using a paramatrix as above, we write $u = K(u) + DP(u)$. If we set $v_n := K(u_n)$, we find that $D(v_n) = KD(u_n)$. Since K is smoothing, the v_n will be smooth and $D(v_n)$ converges to $K(u)$ in $\Gamma^{(0)}(E^{p+1})$. It follows that $K(u) = D(v')$ for some $v' \in \Gamma(E^p)$, so that $u = D(v)$ where $v = v' + P(u) \in \Gamma^{(r)}(E^p)$.

To prove part (iii), note that (i) and (ii) show that we are in the following situation: we have a sequence of Hilbert spaces and bounded operators

$$U \xrightarrow{A} V \xrightarrow{B} W$$

which is exact in the middle and with the property that the range of B is closed in W . We claim that, under such circumstances, $\Delta := AA^* + B^*B : V \rightarrow V$ is an isomorphism. To see this, decompose

$$U = U_0 \oplus U_0^\perp, \quad V = V_0 \oplus V_0^\perp, \quad W = W_0 \oplus W_0^\perp,$$

where $U_0 = \text{Ker}(A)^\perp$, $V_0 = \text{Im}(A) = \text{Ker}(B)$ and $W_0 = \text{Im}(B)$. Note that our hypothesis guarantee that these are all Hilbert space decompositions. Moreover, we have that

$$A_0 := A|_{U_0} : U_0 \longrightarrow V_0, \quad B_0 := B|_{V_0^\perp} : V_0^\perp \longrightarrow W_0$$

are isomorphisms (continuous bijections between Hilbert spaces). With respect to the above decomposition, $\Delta = \text{diag}(A_0 A_0^*, B_0^* B_0)$, hence it is an isomorphism. \square

8. PROOFS: THE POISSON CASE

In this section we prove first Theorem 1.1, concerning stability. Then we indicate the changes necessary to prove Theorem 1.2 about strong stability. The last paragraph contains the proof of the necessity conditions given in Theorem 1.3.

8.1. Proof of Theorem 1.1. We now place ourselves under the assumptions of Theorem 1.1 and we set $k = \kappa - 1$. For the proof we will use the reduced complex $\overline{\Omega}_S$ and the operators $\overline{d}_{\theta,s}$ acting on it. Recall that

$$\overline{\Omega}_S^l = \sum_{\substack{p+q=l \\ q \geq 1}} \Omega^p(S; \wedge^q E), \quad \overline{d}_{\theta,s} = \text{ad}_{d_s \theta^\vee} + d_{d_s \Gamma} + \text{ad}_{d_s \mathbb{F}}.$$

Given a section $s \in \Gamma^{(k)}(E)$, we consider the element

$$c(\theta, s) := (\theta^\vee|_s, \Gamma_\theta|_s) \in \overline{\Omega}_S^{2,(k-1)}.$$

We recall that our aim is to look for a sections s such that this expression is zero. Note that such an s is necessarily smooth, hence it will define a symplectic leaf of θ (Proposition 5.1). We introduce the functional $\Phi_\theta : \Gamma^{(k)}(E) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$:

$$\Phi_\theta(s) := \|c(\theta, s)\|_{(k-1)}^2 = \|\theta^\vee|_s\|_{(k-1)}^2 + \|\Gamma|_s\|_{(k-1)}^2,$$

where, as before, the subscript $(k-1)$ indicates the use of the Sobolev inner product of class $k-1$.

Lemma 8.1. Φ_θ is a smooth and for each $s, w \in \Gamma^{(k)}(E) = \overline{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)}$ we have

$$(d_s \Phi_\theta)(w) = -\langle \overline{d}_{\theta,s}(w), c(\theta, s) \rangle_{(k-1)}.$$

Proof. For $w \in \overline{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)}$ we compute:

$$\begin{aligned} (d_s \Phi_\theta)(w) &= \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \langle c(\theta, s + tw), c(\theta, s + tw) \rangle_{(k-1)} \\ &= 2 \left\langle \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} c(\theta, s + tw), c(\theta, s) \right\rangle_{(k-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Hence it remains to check that the operation

$$\overline{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)} \ni s \longmapsto c(\theta, s) \in \overline{\Omega}_S^{2,(k-1)}$$

is smooth, with first derivative precisely $-\overline{d}_{\theta,s}$:

$$(14) \quad - \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} c(\theta, s + tw) = \overline{d}_{\theta,s}(w), \quad (w \in \overline{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)})$$

We can check that this holds, by checking each component, so we need to show that:

$$- \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \Gamma|_{s+tw} = d_{d_s \Gamma}(w), \quad - \left. \frac{d}{dt} \right|_{t=0} \theta^\vee|_{s+tw} = \text{ad}_{d_s \theta^\vee}(w).$$

We check the first identity by computing in local coordinates (the second one is checked in a similar fashion and so is left for the interested reader):

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0}(\Gamma|_{s+tw})_i^a &= \frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0}\left(\frac{\partial(s+tw)^a}{\partial x_i} - \Gamma_i^a(x, s(x) + tw(x))\right) \\ &= \frac{\partial w^a}{\partial x^i} - \frac{\partial \Gamma_i^a}{\partial y_b}(x, s(x))w^b(x) \end{aligned}$$

which are precisely the local expressions for the covariant derivative of w with respect to the linear connection $d_s\Gamma$. \square

When $\theta = \pi$, the zero section $s = 0$ is a critical point of Φ_π . The next result gives its Hessian.

Lemma 8.2. *For $w_1, w_2 \in \Gamma^{(k)}(E) = \overline{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)}$, we have:*

$$(d_0^2\Phi_\pi)(w_1, w_2) = \langle \overline{d}_{\pi,0}(w_1), \overline{d}_{\pi,0}(w_2) \rangle_{(k-1)}.$$

Proof. We compute, using Lemma 8.1:

$$\begin{aligned} (d_0^2\Phi_\pi)(w_1, w_2) &= \frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0} (d_{tw_1}\Phi_\pi)(w_2) \\ &= -\frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0} \langle \overline{d}_{\pi,tw_1}(w_2), c(\pi, tw_1) \rangle_{(k-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Since $c(\pi, 0) = 0$, we conclude that:

$$(d_0^2\Phi_\pi)(w_1, w_2) = -\langle \overline{d}_{\pi,0}(w_2), \frac{d}{dt}\Big|_{t=0} c(\pi, tw_1) \rangle_{(k-1)}.$$

Applying (14), we obtain the desired formula. \square

The previous results show that we have the Hilbert space decomposition:

$$\overline{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)} = \text{Ker } \overline{d}_{\pi,0} \oplus (\text{Ker } \overline{d}_{\pi,0})^\perp.$$

For the sequel, we set $K := \text{Ker } \overline{d}_{\pi,0}$ and $W := K^\perp$. We have:

Lemma 8.3. *The origin $0 \in W$ is a strongly non-degenerate critical point of $\Phi_\pi|_W : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.*

Proof. This follows from the computation of the Hessian given in Lemma 8.2 and the fact that $\overline{d}_{\pi,0}(\overline{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)})$ is closed in $\overline{\Omega}_S^{2,(k-1)}$ (see Proposition 7.4 (ii)). \square

We have the following simple application of the inverse function theorem.

Proposition 8.4. *Let \mathcal{H} be a Hilbert space, let Λ be a topological space and let $F_\lambda : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a family of C^2 -maps depending continuously on a parameter $\lambda \in \Lambda$. If $0 \in \mathcal{H}$ is a strongly non-degenerate critical point of F_{λ_0} , then there is a continuous map $U \ni \lambda \mapsto x_\lambda \in \mathcal{H}$, defined in a neighborhood $U \subset \Lambda$ of λ_0 , such that each x_λ is a critical point of F_λ .*

Proof. Let $G(\cdot, \lambda)$ be the gradient of F_λ :

$$G : \mathcal{H} \times \Lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^* \simeq \mathcal{H}, \quad G(x, \lambda) := d_x F_\lambda.$$

By our assumptions on F_λ , the partial derivative $D_1 G(x, \lambda)$ is continuous in both x and λ , while $D_1 G(0, \lambda_0) : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ is an isomorphism. We can then apply the version of the inverse function theorem with parameters (see, e.g., [12, Theorem 2]) to conclude that the map $(x, \lambda) \mapsto (G(x, \lambda), \lambda)$ has a continuous inverse $(y, \lambda) \mapsto (G^{-1}(y, \lambda), \lambda)$, defined in some neighborhood of $(0, \lambda_0)$. If we now set $x_\lambda := G^{-1}(0, \lambda)$, the result follows. \square

Remark 8.5. Assume that the parameter space is a product $\Lambda = \Lambda' \times \mathcal{H}'$, where Λ' is some topological space and \mathcal{H}' is a Hilbert space. If $F_\lambda = F_{(\theta,s)}$ depends continuously on $\theta \in \Lambda'$ and smoothly on $s \in H'$, then the family of critical points $x_\lambda = x_{(\theta,s)}$ will depend continuously on θ and smoothly on s . The proof is the same, except that one now uses the version of the *implicit* function theorem with parameters.

We can now proceed to complete the proof of Theorem 1.1. The family of functionals indexed by (θ, s) , with $s \in K$, defined by:

$$W \ni w \mapsto \Phi_\theta(s + w),$$

has a strongly non-degenerate critical point at the origin when $\theta = \pi$. Hence, there exists a neighborhood of π and a neighborhood of 0 in K , where the map $(\theta, s) \mapsto w_{\theta,s} \in W$ is defined, depends continuously on θ and smoothly on s , and

$$\tilde{s}_{\theta,s} := s + w_{\theta,s}$$

is a critical point of $\Phi_\theta|_{s+W}$. Note that $\tilde{s}_{\theta,s}$ can be assumed to be as small as we wish (in $\bar{\Omega}_S^{1,(k)}$), by considering small enough neighborhoods.

We claim that $\tilde{s}_{\theta,s}$ is a symplectic leaf of θ , i.e., that it is a smooth section satisfying $c(\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}) = 0$ (see Proposition 5.1). To prove this, we start by remarking that $\tilde{s}_{\theta,s}$ being a critical point means that (see Lemma 8.1):

$$(d_{\tilde{s}_{\theta,s}} \Phi_\theta)(w) = \langle \bar{d}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}}(w), c(\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}) \rangle_{(k-1)} = 0, \quad \forall w \in W.$$

This shows that:

$$\bar{d}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}}^*(c(\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s})) \in W^\perp = K \implies \bar{d}_{\pi,0} \bar{d}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}}^*(c(\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s})) = 0.$$

We recall that we also have $\bar{d}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}}(c(\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s})) = 0$. So, if we consider the operator

$$\bar{\Delta}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}} := \bar{d}_{\pi,0} \bar{d}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}}^* + \bar{d}_{\pi,0}^* \bar{d}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}} : \bar{\Omega}_S^{2,(k-1)} \rightarrow \bar{\Omega}_S^{2,(k-1)}$$

we find that

$$\bar{\Delta}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}}(c(\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s})) = 0.$$

By Proposition 7.4 (iii), we know that $\bar{\Delta}_\pi = \bar{\Delta}_{\pi,0}$ is an isomorphism. Hence so are $\bar{\Delta}_{\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}}$, for s small enough and θ close enough to π . It follows that $c(\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}) = 0$. Note that, at this point we only know that $\tilde{s}_{\theta,s}$ is of type $H^{(k)}$. However, the equation $c(\theta, \tilde{s}_{\theta,s}) = 0$ is elliptic on $\tilde{s}_{\theta,s}$, so $\tilde{s}_{\theta,s}$ must be smooth.

In conclusion, we have proved the existence of a smooth section $\tilde{s}_{\theta,s}$, depending continuously on θ and smoothly in $s \in K$, such that

$$\tilde{s}_{\theta,s} \in s + W$$

and $\text{Graph}(\tilde{s}_{\theta,s})$ is a symplectic leaf of θ . Now observe that elements in K , being flat sections, are necessarily smooth, so $K = \text{Ker } \bar{d}_\pi = \Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu^0(S)) = H_\pi^1(M, S)$ (Proposition 5.1 and Corollary 6.6 (i)) and this concludes the proof of Theorem 1.1.

8.2. Proof of Theorem 1.2. We now indicate the changes that are necessary to prove Theorem 1.2.

The proof follows exactly the same pattern. As before, we set $k = \kappa - 1$. We now consider the complex Ω_S^\bullet and the element $c(\theta, s, \beta) \in \Omega_S^{2,(k-1)}$ which, for each horizontally non-degenerate Poisson structure θ , with associated geometric triple $(\theta^\vee|_s, \Gamma_\theta, \mathbb{F}_\theta)$, and each pair $(\beta, s) \in \Gamma^{(k)}(E) \oplus \Omega^{1,(k)}(S) = \Omega_S^{1,(k)}$, is defined by:

$$c(\theta, s, \beta) := (\Gamma_\theta|_s, \theta^\vee|_s, \mathbb{F}_\theta|_s - \omega_S + d\beta).$$

A small enough pair (s, β) , with s and $d\beta$ smooth, such that $c(\theta, s, \beta) = 0$ corresponds to a symplectic leaf $\text{Graph}(s)$ which projects diffeomorphically to S and which has symplectic form isotopic to ω_S . This is just an extension of Proposition

5.1 (see, e.g., the proof of Corollary 6.6 (ii)). Note that the equation $d_{\theta,s}(\theta|_s) = 0$ immediately implies:

$$d_{\theta,s}c(\theta, s, \beta) = 0.$$

One now studies the functional $\Phi_\theta : \Omega_S^{1,(k)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by:

$$\Phi_\theta(s, \beta) := \|c(\theta, s, \beta)\|_{(k-1)}^2,$$

which is smooth, with differential

$$(d_{(s,\beta)}\Phi_\theta)(w) = -\langle d_{\theta,s}w, c(\theta, s, \beta) \rangle_{(k-1)}.$$

When $\theta = \pi$ and $(s, \beta) = 0$, this functional has a critical point with Hessian given by:

$$d_{(s,\beta)}^2\Phi_\theta(w_1, w_2) = \langle d_{\pi,0}w_1, d_{\pi,0}w_2 \rangle_{(k-1)}.$$

Hence, set $K := \text{Ker } d_{\pi,0}$ and $W := (\text{Ker } d_{\pi,0})^\perp$. It follows that for $(s, \beta) \in K$ the functional defined by

$$W \ni w \mapsto \Phi_\theta((s, \beta) + w),$$

has a strongly non-degenerate critical point at the origin when $\theta = \pi$.

Hence, there exists a neighborhood of π and a neighborhood of the origin in K , where the map $(\theta, s, \beta) \mapsto w_{\theta,s,\beta} \in W$ is defined, and

$$(\tilde{s}_{\theta,s,\beta}, \tilde{\beta}_{\theta,s,\beta}) := (s, \beta) + w_{\theta,s,\beta}$$

is a critical point of $\Phi_\theta|_{(s,\beta)+W}$. Note that $w_{\theta,s,\beta}$ depends continuously on θ and smoothly on (s, β) .

One needs to show that:

$$c(\theta, \tilde{s}, \tilde{\beta}) = 0.$$

This follows by exactly the same method as in the proof of Theorem 1.1: One applies the “laplacian” type operator $\Delta_{\theta,s} : \Omega_S^{2,(k-1)} \rightarrow \Omega_S^{2,(k-1)}$ defined by:

$$\Delta_{\theta,s} := d_{\theta,s}d_{\theta,s}^* + d_{\theta,s}^*d_{\theta,s},$$

to this element, and checks that:

$$\Delta_{\theta,s}(c(\theta, \tilde{s}, \tilde{\beta})) = 0.$$

By Proposition 7.4, when $\theta = \pi$ and $s = 0$, the operator $\Delta_{\pi,0}$ is an isomorphism. Hence, for θ and s small enough we have that $\Delta_{\theta,s}$ is also an isomorphism, so we must have $c(\theta, \tilde{s}, \tilde{\beta}) = 0$.

To complete the proof, note that elements $(s, \beta) \in K$ must have s smooth (since s is a flat section) and that pairs $(\tilde{s}_{\theta,s,\beta}, \tilde{\beta}_{\theta,s,\beta})$ and $(\tilde{s}_{\theta,s',\beta'}, \tilde{\beta}_{\theta,s',\beta'})$ define the same symplectic leaf of θ precisely when $s = s'$ and $-d\beta = \sigma|_s = \sigma|_{s'} = -d\beta'$ (by Corollary 6.6 (ii)). Since $\sigma|_s$ is smooth, we can always choose a smooth 1-form β with $-d\beta = \sigma|_s$. Hence, the space of symplectic leaves is parametrized by:

$$\{s \in \Gamma_{\text{flat}}(\nu^0(S)) : \sigma|_s \in d(\Omega^1(S))\}$$

and this is precisely the image of the map $H_\pi^1(M, S) \rightarrow H_{\pi,S}^1(M)$.

8.3. Proof of Theorem 1.3. To complete the discussion of the Poisson case, we are missing the proof of the necessary condition for stability given in Theorem 1.3.

We place ourselves under the assumptions of Theorem 1.3. Thus we can assume that we have a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$ with a Poisson structure $\pi \in \mathfrak{X}^2(E)$ for which the zero section is a compact symplectic leaf (S, ω_S) . The Poisson structure π is horizontally non-degenerate and the corresponding triple $(\pi^\vee, \Gamma_\pi, \mathbb{F}_\pi)$ is formed by a *linear* vertical Poisson structure, a *linear* connection, and an *affine* 2-form: $\mathbb{F}_\pi = \omega_S + \sigma$, where $\sigma \in \Omega_{\text{lin}}^{0,2}(E)$.

Let $c \in \Omega_S^2(E)$ and split it into its components:

$$c = c_{2,0} + c_{1,1} + c_{0,2} \in \Omega_S^{2,0} \oplus \Omega_S^{1,1} \oplus \Omega_S^{0,2}.$$

To this element we associate a family of horizontally non-degenerate bivector fields $\pi_t \in \mathfrak{X}^2(E)$, with $t \in \mathbb{R}$, defined by the geometric triple:

$$\begin{aligned} (\pi_t)^\vee &:= \pi^\vee + t c_{2,0}, \\ \Gamma_{\pi_t} &:= \Gamma_\pi + t c_{1,1}, \\ \mathbb{F}_{\pi_t} &:= \mathbb{F}_\pi + t c_{0,2} = \omega_S + \sigma + t c_{0,2}. \end{aligned}$$

The properties of $[\cdot, \cdot]$, in particular the fact that it vanishes on Ω_S , show that:

$$[\pi_t, \pi_t] = 0 \iff d_{\pi,0}c = 0.$$

Hence, if c is a cocycle, then π_t is a family of Poisson structures with $\pi_0 = \pi$.

In order to prove part (i) of the theorem, we assume that S is a stable leaf. We need to show that the map $\Phi : H_{\pi,S}^2(E) \rightarrow H_\pi^2(E, S)$ vanishes, i.e., that given a cocycle $c \in \Omega_S^2(E)$, then the cocycle

$$\phi(c) := c_{2,0} + c_{1,1} \in \overline{\Omega}_S^2$$

is exact. For this, observe that for t small enough, the associated Poisson structure π_t is close to π and so must have a leaf S' close to S , which projects diffeomorphically under $p : E \rightarrow S$. By Proposition 5.1, the leaf S' is of the form $\text{Graph}(s)$ for a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ satisfying:

$$(\pi_t)^\vee|_s = 0, \quad \Gamma_{\pi_t}|_s = 0.$$

The expressions of $(\pi_t)^\vee$ and Γ_{π_t} given above, show that this can be written:

$$d_\pi^{1,0}s = -t c_{2,0}, \quad d_\pi^{0,1}s = -t c_{1,1}.$$

This just means that $\overline{d}_{\pi,0}(\frac{1}{t}s) = -\phi(c)$, so $\phi(c)$ is exact.

Now we prove part (ii) of the theorem. We assume that S is a strongly stable leaf and we show that $H_{\pi,S}^2(E) = 0$. For this, we choose a cocycle $c \in \Omega_S^2(E)$ and we form the associated family of Poisson structures π_t . Since S is strongly stable, for t small enough, π_t must have a leaf S' close to S , which projects diffeomorphically under $p : E \rightarrow S$, and with symplectic form isotopic to ω_S . This means that S' is described by a section s such that:

$$(\pi_t)^\vee|_s = 0, \quad \Gamma_{\pi_t}|_s = 0, \quad \mathbb{F}_{\pi_t}|_s - \omega_S \in d(\Omega^1(S)).$$

The first two conditions, as we saw above, are equivalent to:

$$d_\pi^{1,0}s = -t c_{2,0}, \quad d_\pi^{0,1}s = -t c_{1,1}.$$

The expression for \mathbb{F}_t shows that the last condition amounts to:

$$\sigma|_s + t c_{0,2} = d\beta \iff d_\pi^{-1,2}s - d_\pi^{0,1}\beta = -t c_{0,2},$$

for some $\beta \in \Omega^1(S)$. We conclude that $d_\pi(\frac{1}{t}(s - \beta)) = -c$, so c is exact.

9. PROOFS: THE LIE ALGEBROID CASE

We now turn to the proof of Theorem 1.8. Since this proof is again very similar to that of Theorem 1.1, we will just indicate the setup and the main steps. Before that, we recall the construction of the deformation complex of a Lie algebroid (see [6]) and its relationship with Poisson geometry.

Given a vector bundle A over M , one defines $C_{\text{def}}^q(A)$ as the space of q -multi-derivations on A , i.e., skew-symmetric multilinear maps:

$$\underbrace{\Gamma(A) \otimes \cdots \otimes \Gamma(A)}_{q \text{ times}} \rightarrow \Gamma(A)$$

which is a derivation in each entry. This means that there exists a skew-symmetric bundle map

$$\sigma_D : \wedge^{q-1} A \rightarrow TM,$$

called the *symbol*, such that

$$D(\alpha_1, \dots, f\alpha_q) = fD(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_q) + \sigma_D(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{q-1})(f)\alpha_q,$$

for any function $f \in C^\infty(M)$ and sections $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_q \in \Gamma(A)$. From this definition, it is clear that a Lie algebroid structure on A can be interpreted as an element $\ell \in C_{\text{def}}^2(A)$, namely the Lie bracket of the structure, with symbol the anchor. The condition that ℓ must satisfy makes use of a certain graded Lie bracket $[\cdot, \cdot]$ on $C_{\text{def}}^\bullet(A)$, which will be recalled below. Using this bracket, Lie algebroid structures on A are in 1-1 correspondence with elements $\ell \in C_{\text{def}}^2(A)$ which satisfy $[\ell, \ell] = 0$.

The space $C_{\text{def}}^\bullet(A)$ can also be interpreted as the space of linear multivector fields on the manifold A^* , which provides a close relationship with Poisson geometry. By a linear q -vector field on A^* we mean a q -vector field $X \in \mathfrak{X}^q(A^*)$ which locally looks like:

$$a_J^j(x)\xi_j\partial_{\xi_J} + b_{J'}^i(x)\partial_{\partial x^i} \wedge \partial_{\xi_{J'}},$$

where $x = (x^1, \dots, x^m)$ are coordinates in M , (ξ_1, \dots, ξ_r) are fiberwise coordinates in A^* coming from a local frame of A , a_J^j and $b_{J'}^i$ are smooth functions, while J and J' are multi-indices of length q and $q-1$, respectively. We will denote this space by $\mathfrak{X}_{\text{lin}}^q(A^*)$.

A coordinate free description of the isomorphism

$$\mathfrak{X}_{\text{lin}}^q(A) \cong C_{\text{def}}^q(A), \quad X \mapsto D_X$$

associates to X the derivation D_X determined by:

$$e_{D_X(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_q)} = \langle de_{\alpha_1} \wedge \dots \wedge de_{\alpha_q}, X \rangle,$$

where for $\alpha \in \Gamma(A)$ we denote by $e_\alpha \in C^\infty(A^*)$ the fiberwise linear function on A induced by α . The symbol of D_X is given by:

$$\sigma_X(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{q-1})(f) = \langle de_{\alpha_1} \wedge \dots \wedge de_{\alpha_{q-1}} \wedge d\tilde{f}, X \rangle$$

for all $f \in C^\infty(M)$, where $\tilde{f} = f \circ p$. Finally, the bracket on $C_{\text{def}}^\bullet(A)$ mentioned above corresponds to the restriction of the Schouten bracket to $\mathfrak{X}_{\text{lin}}^\bullet(A^*)$. For our purposes, this can be taken as the definition of the bracket on $C_{\text{def}}^\bullet(A)$.

We now turn to the proof of Theorem 1.8. We denote by $\ell_0 \in C_{\text{def}}^2(A)$ the original Lie algebroid structure on A . In order to emphasize the analogy with the previous proof, we will denote by S , instead of L , a compact leaf of ℓ_0 . As in the Poisson case, after choosing a tubular neighborhood of S , we may assume that M is a vector bundle $p : E \rightarrow S$. We may also assume that, as a vector bundle, $A = p^*A_S$ where $A_S = A|_S$.

The space that plays the role analogue of the space Ω_E for the Poisson case, is the space

$$\mathcal{C}_E^\bullet := C_{\text{def}}^\bullet(A),$$

endowed itself with the bracket coming from the Schouten bracket on multivector fields on A^* . On the other hand, the analogue of Ω_S is the space

$$\mathcal{C}_S^\bullet := \Omega^{\bullet-1}(A_S; E).$$

All the spaces that we consider will be subspaces of \mathcal{C}_E . For instance, \mathcal{C}_S^q sits naturally inside \mathcal{C}_E^q : any $c \in \Omega^{q-1}(A_S; E)$ induces a derivation $D \in C_{\text{def}}^q(A)$ which is zero on sections constant on the fibers and has symbol $\sigma_D = c$ (use the natural inclusion of p^*E into TE).

We will also use local coordinates to express elements in \mathcal{C}_E . For that, we choose local coordinates (x^i) in S and fiberwise coordinates (y^j) on E , which together

give coordinates on the total space E . We also choose fiberwise coordinates (ξ_k) on $A = p^*A_S$ coming from fiberwise coordinates on A_S . Then elements in \mathcal{C}_E^q are sums of the type

$$(15) \quad a_{K'}^i(x, y) \partial_{x^i} \wedge \partial_{\xi_{K'}} + b_{K''}^j(x, y) \partial_{y^j} \wedge \partial_{\xi_{K''}} + c_{k,K}(x, y) \xi_k \partial_{\xi_K}$$

where the sums are over the indices i, j, k and over the multi-indices K of length q , and K' and K'' of length $k' = k'' = (q - 1)$. Moreover, elements in \mathcal{C}_S^q are those elements with local expressions:

$$b_K^j(x) \partial_{y^j} \wedge \partial_{\xi_K}$$

(note that the coefficient *does not* depend on y).

Any automorphism ϕ of the vector bundle A (not necessarily covering the identity) induces a transformation on $\mathfrak{X}^\bullet(A^*)$ denoted by the same letter. In particular, the family of bundle automorphisms $\phi_t^s : A \rightarrow A$, defined for $t > 0$ and $s \in \Gamma(A)$ by:

$$(x, y, \xi) \mapsto (x, ty + s(x), \xi),$$

induces transformations $\phi_t^s : \mathcal{C}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_E$. By construction, each ϕ_t^s preserves the bracket on \mathcal{C}_E . We also put $\phi_t = \phi_t^0$. In local coordinates, ϕ_t^s transforms an element (15) into the element:

$$\begin{aligned} & a_{K'}^i(x, ty + s(x)) \partial_{x^i} \wedge \partial_{\xi_{K'}} + \\ & + \frac{1}{t} \left(b_{K''}^j(x, ty + s(x)) - a_{K''}^i(x, ty + s(x)) \frac{\partial s^j}{\partial x^i} \right) \partial_{y^j} \wedge \partial_{\xi_{K'}} + \\ & + c_{k,K}(x, ty + s(x)) \xi_k \partial_{\xi_K} \end{aligned}$$

It is clear now that, just as in the Poisson case, we can view \mathcal{C}_S inside \mathcal{C}_E as the subspace:

$$\mathcal{C}_S := \{u \in \mathcal{C}_E : \phi_t(u) = \frac{1}{t}u\}.$$

We also introduce the subspace:

$$\mathcal{C}_{E,\text{lin}} := \{u \in \mathcal{C}_E : \phi_t(u) = u\}.$$

Similar to Ω_E , we have a restriction operation along sections of E :

$$\mathcal{C}_E \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_S, u \mapsto u|_s := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} t \phi_t^s(u).$$

In local coordinates, if u is an element given by (15), then $u|_s$ is the element:

$$\left(b_{K''}^j(x, s(x)) - a_{K''}^i(x, s(x)) \frac{\partial s^j}{\partial x^i} \right) \partial_{y^j} \wedge \partial_{\xi_{K'}}$$

Given an algebroid structure on A , viewed as an element $\ell \in \mathcal{C}_E^2$, the question of when is the graph $\text{Graph}(s)$ of a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ a leaf of ℓ , is answered by the following proposition (which is analogous to Proposition 5.1):

Proposition 9.1. *Given an algebroid structure ℓ on A , the graph of a section $s \in \Gamma(E)$ is a leaf of ℓ if and only if $\ell|_s = 0$.*

Next, for $u \in E$ we introduce the linearization $d_s u$ along a section s to be the element:

$$d_s u := \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{t \phi_t^s(u) - u|_s}{t}.$$

Hence, for any $u \in \mathcal{C}_E$ we have the formal expansion

$$\phi_t^s(u) \sim \frac{1}{t} u|_s + d_s u + o(t).$$

Just as in the Poisson case, for $\ell \in \mathcal{C}_E^2$, we define the operator

$$d_{\ell,s} := [d_s \ell, -] : \mathcal{C}_S \longrightarrow \mathcal{C}_S$$

which rises the degree by 1. The operator $d_{\ell,s}$ is defined on the entire \mathcal{C}_E . The fact that it restricts to \mathcal{C}_S is a formal consequence of the expansion above and the definition of \mathcal{C}_S . It is easy to see that when $\ell = \ell_0$ and $s = 0$, the resulting complex $(\mathcal{C}_S^\bullet, d_{\ell_0,0})$ coincides with the complex $(\Omega^{\bullet-1}(A_S; E), d)$ computing the Lie algebroid cohomology of ℓ_0 with coefficients in $\nu_S = E$, which appears in the statement of the theorem.

The analogue of Proposition 6.4 follows by linearizing the structure equation $[\ell, \ell] = 0$ along a section s . To do so, we first apply ϕ_t^s and then formally expand in powers of t . We obtain:

Proposition 9.2. *For any algebroid structure ℓ on A and any $s \in \Gamma(E)$,*

$$d_{\ell,s}(\ell|_s) = 0.$$

All the analytical aspects discussed in Section 7 go through by the same type of arguments, with same care to obtain the bound $\kappa > \frac{n}{2}$ (in particular, replace [13, Corollary 9.7] by the stronger [13, Theorem 9.6]).

The proof now follows the same pattern as before. For any algebroid structure ℓ we want to look for sections s such that the element:

$$c(\ell, s) = \ell|_s,$$

vanishes. Hence, one considers the functional $\Phi_\ell : \mathcal{C}_S^{1,(\kappa)} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ defined by:

$$\Phi_\ell(s) := \|c(\ell, s)\|_{(\kappa-1)}^2,$$

and whose differential is

$$(d_s \Phi_\ell)(w) = -\langle d_{\ell,s}(w), c(\ell, s) \rangle_{(\kappa-1)}.$$

For the original Lie algebroid structure ℓ_0 , the zero section $s = 0$ is a critical point of this functional, and the Hessian at this point is:

$$(d_0^2 \Phi_{\ell_0})(w_1, w_2) = \langle d_{\ell_0,0}(w_1), d_{\ell_0,0}(w_2) \rangle_{(\kappa-1)}.$$

Hence, if denote by K the kernel of

$$d_{\ell_0,0} : \mathcal{C}_S^{1,(\kappa)} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_S^{2,(\kappa-1)}$$

and by W its orthogonal complement, then the restricted functional

$$\Phi_{\ell_0}|_W : W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

will have a strongly non-degenerate critical point at the origin $0 \in W$ (here we use the fact that the complex $\Omega^\bullet(A_S; E)$ is elliptic).

The conclusion is that for $s \in K$ close enough to zero and ℓ close enough to ℓ_0 , we find that there exists an element

$$\tilde{s}_{\ell,s} = s + w_{\ell,s} \in s + W$$

which is a critical point of $\Phi_\ell|_{s+W}$. Exactly as in the Poisson case, one deduces from this that the element $c(\ell, \tilde{s}_{\ell,s})$ lies in the kernel of the operator:

$$\triangle_{\ell,\tilde{s}} := d_{\ell_0,0} d_{\ell,\tilde{s}}^* + d_{\ell_0,0}^* d_{\ell,\tilde{s}}.$$

When $\ell = \ell_0$ and $s = 0$ the “laplacian” $\triangle_{\ell,0}$ is an isomorphism, so we conclude that, if ℓ is close enough to ℓ_0 and $s \in K$ is close enough to 0, then $\triangle_{\ell,\tilde{s}}$ is also an isomorphism. Therefore, we must have $c(\ell, \tilde{s}_{\ell,s}) = 0$, so that \tilde{s} defines a leaf of ℓ .

To complete the proof, one remarks that since the complex $\mathcal{C}_S^\bullet = \Omega^{\bullet-1}(A_S; E)$ is elliptic and $\mathcal{C}_S^0 = 0$ one has

$$\begin{aligned} K &= \ker(d_{\ell_0,0} : \mathcal{C}_S^{1,(\kappa)} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_S^{2,(\kappa-1)}) \\ &= \ker(d_{\ell_0,0} : \mathcal{C}_S^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_S^2) = H^0(A_S; E). \end{aligned}$$

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